

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REPUBLIC OF GABON DELEGATION VISIT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that during the week of July 12 through 16, the Congress was privileged to have a delegation from the National Assembly of the Republic of Gabon visit with members of both the House and Senate. The delegation was headed by President Guy Nzouba-Ndama and included members of the opposition party. It was the hope of this delegation that this visit would strengthen their understanding of democracy and political leadership in the U.S. and strengthen ties between their National Assembly and our Congress. It is by coincidence that the delegation was here in Washington during our consideration of the Africa Trade Bill. As many members suggested during the debate on this legislation, it's time that we take another look at our policies toward Africa.

The Republic of Gabon is a good example of the changes occurring across Africa. The Republic of Gabon achieved its independence in 1960 and became a democratic republic with three branches of government; the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. President Omar Bongo became the leader of Gabon following the death of President Leon Mba, Gabon's first president, in 1963 and has served as President since that time. After the 1993 election, political parties supporting the President and the major opposition parties negotiated the "Paris Accords" in October 1994. These agreements included reforms to amend electoral procedures, inclusion of opposition leaders in government, and assurances of greater respect for human rights. In July 1995, the Paris Accords were approved by a national referendum. President Bongo was re-elected to a seven-year term in December of 1998.

The National Assembly of Gabon is composed of 120 members and is elected by direct popular vote to serve a five-year term. The first multiparty elections were held in 1991 and the former ruling party, the Gabonese Democratic Party (GDP), retained a large majority in the National Assembly. In the 1996 elections, the PDG secured 100 of the 120 seats. The Senate's 91 members were last elected in 1997.

The Gabonese government and its leadership have taken important strides in implementing a populist democracy. Gabon is also fortunate to have a high level of prosperity and is developing an expanded middle class. President Bongo, with the assistance and cooperation of legislative leaders, is taking strides to increase economic opportunity for the Gabonese people by privatizing state-owned industries and improving the countries infrastructure.

We support the efforts the Gabonese government and its leadership has undertaken to

increase their knowledge of the democratic process as practiced in the United States. We also encourage the Gabonese political leadership to continue its positive strides and understand that true democracy does not occur overnight. We also understand that an expanded middle class and economic development are important elements of a vibrant democracy. I look forward to building and expanding our nation's ties to Gabon. We should do everything in our power to ensure this nation's continued growth.

THE SOUTHWEST DEFENSE COMPLEX AND MILITARY SUPERIORITY

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I hope our House colleagues will support the Southwest Defense Complex, a proposal to consolidate defense research, development, testing, evaluation, and training in the Southwest United States. This proposal would link as many as 12 bases in 5 states (California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona) to work to ensure our armed forces' technical superiority. Moreover, at a time of diminishing defense budgets, we must enhance the performance of military weaponry at lower costs. The consolidation of defense resources made possible by the Complex will help the Department of Defense achieve optimum use of its facilities.

The threats to our national security around the world are rapidly changing, unpredictable, but extremely dangerous. Americans in uniform are clearly going to need accurate and secure information systems, and high impact weapons with extreme precision. We need to develop new systems to meet the challenges of warfare in the 21st century to remain the best military in the world. Yet, conflicting demands and competing interests for dwindling defense dollars has spurred inefficiencies in military research, development, training, and evaluation that threaten our long-term combat readiness. The Complex proposal offers a strategy of consolidation that is cost-effective and affordable and most important, allows us to redirect needed funds to military needs.

The objective of the Southwest Defense Complex is to remedy the inefficiencies that hinder Department of Defense research, development, testing, and evaluation programs from strengthening our military superiority. The Department of Defense currently spends \$80 billion annually to maintain an inefficient defense logistic infrastructure. Each service maintains facilities that are expensive and perform redundant capabilities with little regard for cost-efficient coordinated investment.

Underutilized and non-competitive infrastructure must be eliminated if we are to get the maximum value for our defense dollars. We must equip our soldiers with the right equip-

ment to protect our national security and deter any potential threats. It is our research and training infrastructure that ensures that our armed forces are strong.

The advantages of the Southwest Defense Complex are numerous. First, bases in the Southwest United States are already becoming electronically linked and a number of them cooperate in solving problems and using facilities. In fact, western research and training facilities are already cooperating on sharing optical sensors between the Navy and Air Force for aircraft tracking devices, testing the weaponry of the F-15 at Edwards Air Force Base against drones at the Navy's Pt. Mugu range, and developing the Global Positioning Systems with shared information from all western facilities. Second, it is the only area in the U.S. where advanced technology can be used and tested in a realistic, high fidelity environment with minimal impact upon the general population. Third, the area provides ideal weather conditions for testing and training operations largely free of commercial activity. Fourth, the Southwest provides the physical space necessary for the testing and training that uses advanced technology. It is a region that offers 335 million acres of federally owned land. Over 490 thousand square miles of air space; and 484 thousand square miles of sea that can be used for training personnel. No other area in the country can offer these benefits.

The Southwest is a critical area to develop a stronger defense for our nation. The coordination of western facilities can allow for an effective and streamlined system to replace the status quo. The land, air and sea ranges available in the west will permit new technology to be developed, tested in the field, improved in the lab, and evaluated in a combat simulated environment. The most cost-effective way to test and adapt commercial technology for military purposes is to have facilities in the vicinity of where the field tests were held.

The Department of Defense has taken the first step in changing the way it researches, develops, and tests new technologies and trains personnel with the recommendation of the Western Test Range Command. The next step should be creation of the Southwest Defense Complex. Such a complex can provide long-term solutions to current military inefficiencies to develop, test, and deploy new weapon systems. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Southwest Defense Complex to strengthen our national security in the future.

HONORING JONELLE SUZANNE GARO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jonelle Suzanne Garo, recently

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

ordained Associate Pastor for Christian Education at California's Oldest Armenian Church.

The Presbytery of San Joaquin also ordained Jonelle Suzanne Garo, M.Div. as a Minister of the World and Sacraments on Sunday, June 13.

A native of Fresno, Garo received her early education at Carroll Baird Elementary School, Tenaya Middle School, and Bullard High School, where she lettered in varsity soccer and softball. She matriculated at California State University, Fresno for 2 years, reported for the Armenian Studies Newspaper, and played on the CSUF Women's Club Soccer Team.

In 1990, Garo transferred to Westmont College in Santa Barbara and earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology 2 years later. She worked here way through undergraduate school as a nanny for actress Jane Seymour, construction worker, retail associate sales, and food service/catering assistant, among other things.

In 1994, Garo was admitted to Princeton Theological Seminary, the oldest Presbyterian graduate school in America. During her course of study, Garo was a member of the Theological Students Fellowship and cochaired the Charles Hodge Society and Friday Night Fellowship. She served as a ministry intern at the Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church of Havertown, Pennsylvania and as a chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania and as a chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center.

Garo conducted youth ministries in New England and Canada under the auspices of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. She also engaged in missions work in the inner city of Newark and in the Republics of Mexico and Armenia. Upon her graduation in 1997, Garo undertook a 1-year Christian Education internship/practicum at her childhood church, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno.

Garo is the daughter of Philip and Elaine (Karabian) Garo of Fresno, married Kalem Kazarian of Fowler, CA, on July 24, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jonelle Suzanne Garo Kazarian for her accomplishments as an ordained associate pastor for Christian Education in the oldest Armenian church. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Garo many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of California's 49th Congressional District, I would like to recognize the efforts of the 6,700 members of San Diego's Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse organization in promoting California's fourth "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" from September 20–24, 1999.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA) is a respected and effective organization that works to educate consumers about the human and financial costs associated with frivolous lawsuits. This organization has led successful efforts to protect MICRA (the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act) in the State of

California, to limit the liability of Y2K lawsuits, and to inform the public of the true threats of lawsuit abuse which burden our local economy.

CALA in San Diego is recognized locally for their distinctive billboard signs, "Gavel of Justice" cable network program, and for providing crucial educational information exposing the true financial effects that lawsuits have upon each and every one of us—in the pocketbook through higher insurance and medical charges.

I support CALA in their efforts to secure support for civil justice reform. I have been delighted to work with CALA in the past, and look forward to working with them in the future.

Mr. Speaker, CALA should be commended during this important "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week".

IN HONOR OF ROBERT F. BUSBEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Robert F. Busbey and in recognition of Cleveland State University naming their natatorium the Robert F. Busbey Natatorium on October 2, 1999. I am honored to have been invited to this dedication ceremony.

Beginning with his enrollment in 1946 to Fenn College, later Cleveland State University, Robert F. "Bob" Busbey has contributed more to the history of Cleveland State athletics than any other single individual. As a four-sport athlete (swimming, baseball, track, and fencing), he was Fenn College's first All-American and achieved this honor in both 1948 and 1949.

After graduation, Mr. Busbey served as the head swimming coach at Cleveland State for 30 years. During his coaching tenure, Mr. Busbey was named the assistant swimming coach for the 1964 U.S. Olympic Team, served as chairman of the NCAA Swimming Committee, served as Cleveland State's athletics director, and was responsible for bringing five NCAA swimming championships to the Cleveland State natatorium.

Robert Busbey's accomplishments led to his receiving the 1982 National Collegiate and Scholastic Swimming Trophy, one of the sport's highest awards. Mr. Busbey served as the athletic director until 1990, developing a program of 18 intercollegiate sports and was a prime force in the planning and building of CSU's Physical Education Building, housing the world class natatorium. After serving as Cleveland State's Director of Athletics, Mr. Busbey served as the associate vice president for athletic affairs until his retirement in 1994. In recognition of his outstanding athletic legacy and generous support, Cleveland State University is honoring him by naming the natatorium the Robert F. Busbey Natatorium.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Busbey on his many accomplishments and commemorate him for his continuous support of Cleveland State University.

TRIBUTE TO EMILIO TORRES

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Emilio Torres of San Antonio, TX, upon his retirement after 51 years of Federal Government service.

Mr. Torres began serving his country on May 4, 1948, with a tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. After his service with the Navy, Mr. Torres spent his remaining years of Federal Government service at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. Throughout those years of service, Mr. Torres held positions in Kelly Flight Test and in the Quality Assurance Division of the Directorate of Maintenance. Mr. Torres also served as chief of the Quality Evaluation Team and as chief of Administration Services for the Directorate of Maintenance. In addition, Mr. Torres was assigned to the San Antonio-Air Logistics Center as a special projects officer.

As an artist, Mr. Torres has made a number of significant contributions to Kelly Air Force Base. Mr. Torres is the designer of the Veteran's Monument at Kelly Air Force Base, and his efforts were instrumental in establishing the Kelly Air Force Base Heritage Museum. Mr. Torres has also received wide recognition and acclaim for his historical cartoon depiction of Kelly Air Force Base, a piece which appeared in the San Antonio Express News, the San Antonio Light, and the Kelly Observer.

Mr. Torres' artistic contributions have been recognized by the city of San Antonio, and his works have been presented to many distinguished officials including the Pope, the Queen of England, the King of Spain, all U.S. Presidents beginning with President Kennedy, and a number of secretaries of the Air Force, Governors, State senators, and other visiting dignitaries.

In his final duty for the Federal Government, Mr. Torres has been assigned to the San Antonio-Air Logistics Center Commander's Action Group. In this capacity, Mr. Torres manages the special projects function which aids the commander in support of distinguished visitors, briefings, tours, displays, and orientations.

The efforts of Emilio Torres merit recognition, not only for his years of dedicated service, but also for the indelible imprint that his artistic works have left on the San Antonio community.

A TRIBUTE TO BILL ROLEN

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform my colleagues of the recent death of John William "Bill" Rolan on September 14, 1999.

Bill is perhaps best known for his outstanding advocacy on behalf of our Nation's former prisoners of war. Since March 1994, Bill served as the Executive Director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. In this important position, with outstanding support from his

wife Mary, Bill Rolan had a major role in assisting the Congress to respond more effectively to America's servicemen and women who were prisoners of war, their dependents and survivors.

After graduation from high school in Sevierville, Tennessee, Bill entered the U.S. Army in October 1943 and spent four months in basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida. Bill subsequently joined the 45th Division in March 1944 at Anzio Beach, Italy, participated in the liberation of Rome and the invasion of Southern France. Following six months of combat, Bill was captured and spent seven months in a prisoner-of-war camp. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the European Campaign Ribbon with three battle stars, and the Prisoner of War Medal for his distinguished military service.

At the end of World War II, Bill returned to Tennessee, then later trained at Coyne Electrical Training School in Chicago, Illinois. In 1950, Bill moved to Washington, DC and began his successful 34-year career with the Army Strategic Communication Command at the Pentagon.

Following retirement in 1984, Bill organized the first American Ex-Prisoners of War Chapter in Northern Virginia. He continued his service to his fellow POWs throughout the remainder of his life, serving on the National Legislative Committee of the National Capitol Office for many years.

Bill continued his dedicated work on behalf of POWs and their families until his last days. When the House approved H.R. 2280, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1999, on June 29th, this bill included a provision which would allow surviving spouses of former prisoners of war to qualify for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits without requiring that the veteran have been 100% service-connected for ten years prior to death. This provision was recommended to the Committee by Bill Rolan and, as a result of his committed and articulate advocacy, an inequity in law which unintentionally penalizes spouses of former POWs will be corrected when this measure is enacted into law.

I am proud to have known Bill Rolan and we are better for his dedicated service to his Nation and his fellow veterans. We will miss Bill Rolan and extend our condolences to his wife Mary, his children and grandchildren.

**JIMMIE ICARDO, KERN COUNTY
FAIR'S AGRICULTURIST OF THE
YEAR**

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 23rd the 1999 Kern County Fair will name Mr. Jimmie Icardo as the Fair's 1999 Agriculturist of the Year. Jimmie Icardo's contributions to Kern County agriculture have helped make California farming the competitor it is today.

When you look at agriculture across the United States, California's ability to turn out and export quality crops is exemplary. It is through the efforts of Kern County farmers like Jimmie Icardo and the quality goods they have consistently introduced into the market place

that California is now one of the world's foremost suppliers of quality produce.

Jimmie Icardo represents a generation of farmers who sought to put out the best product they could. Successful in real estate, oil and gas and other ventures, Jimmie remains first and foremost a farmer. He did want to be the best farmer he could and his long standing reputation for quality melons, cotton, carrots and other produce says he achieved that goal. His work, along with the work of other farmers who also sought to be the best at the business, has given Kern County agriculture the reputation for quality the state enjoys today throughout the world.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND FATHER KOURKEN YARALIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute The Very Reverend Father Kourken Yaralian who passed away December 17th 1998.

Born Garo Yaralian on July 9, 1931, in Kessab, Syria, Der Hayr received his primary education at Ousoomnasiratz Miatzyal Varjaran. At age 14, he entered the seminary in Antelias, Lebanon, where he received his secondary diploma. After graduation, he returned to Kessab and taught children at the same school he previously attended. From this point on, youth education would become a vital aspect of his priestly responsibilities throughout his life.

In 1954, he returned to the seminary to enter the priesthood, and in 1955 he married his only sweetheart, Anoush Hovsepian. On July 8, 1956, he was ordained Der Kourken.

Der Kourken's first parish was St. Mary's in Beirut, and in 1959, the catholicos sent him to the United States to assist in the consecration and to become the first pastor of Sts. Vartanatz Armenian Church in Ridgefield, NJ. There he organized the church choir and established the Sunday School and Nareg Armenian Saturday School. Knowing the importance of assimilating into the American culture, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he furthered his English language skills. He was then accepted into the Master's program of Columbia University's Union Theological Seminary where he received his degree in Sacred Theology in 1963. During the Great Ecumenical movement, he was the first Armenian priest to receive membership in the World Council of Churches.

After serving the Armenian community in New Jersey for nearly 8 years, Der Kourken was asked to preside as pastor for the parish of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno, and with Yerezgin Anoush and their five children, he moved the family to California in 1966.

At Holy Trinity, Der Kourken raised funds and brought new parishioners that would secure the church's financial future. He then set out to meet and seek the support of his peers and colleagues from other faiths with the hope to establish cooperation and support between the major churches and temples in Fresno. Together these religious leaders wove the fabric of the community.

Der Kourken continued to be active in the local and Armenian community, and with the Sisters of Saint Agnes Hospital, he established the first hospice program in the San Joaquin Valley. Responding to the needs of Vietnam and other veterans of war, he served as Chaplain of Veterans Hospital for several years and provided counseling services in the hospital's drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic.

Der Kourken's influence extended into the political arena, supporting Armenian candidates for both local and State government offices. Of his many accolades, he was proud to be recognized by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for his achievements in both civic and religious contributions to the Fresno Community at large.

Of his major accomplishments, the one that gratified him most was the inception 22 years ago to establish the first Armenian Community Day School in the United States. He was recognized as the school's Founding Father.

Always striving to better the Armenian community and to make the Armenian Church Services more accessible to the Church youth, Der Hayr devoted an immense effort in the translation, transliteration and final publications of The Sacred Music and Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The texts are now widely used in Armenian Churches throughout the U.S.

Der Kourken also made major strides in promoting Armenian culture and religious music throughout the country. In 1984, in conjunction with the Music Department of San Francisco State University he initiated an accredited course in Armenian Church Music and Hymns, where he assisted in the music workshop instruction for the two semester course.

In 1980, he established the first Armenian Church in Vancouver, BC; in 1984, the first Armenian Church in Salt Lake City; followed by the first Armenian Church in Boulder, CO, in 1985.

Der Kourken passed away in his home Thursday, December 17, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to The Very Reverend Father Kourken Yaralian for his accomplishments and services to his community, the United States, and internationally. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Yaralian family.

TRIBUTE TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to welcome home the members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team, and to salute their heroic efforts to rescue survivors in Izmit, Turkey in the aftermath of the country's worst earthquake in history. Called Virginia Task Force One, this highly trained team of rescue specialists are a credit to our nation both as ambassadors and humanitarians.

On August 17, 1999 at 3 a.m., Turkey was shook by a catastrophic earthquake recorded at a magnitude of 7.4. The ground's rumbling came in the still of the night while most people were sleeping, and sent others running out

into the streets in a panic. In just 45 seconds 60,000 buildings crumbled to the ground, entombing at least 20,000 and perhaps as many as 40,000, with another 30,000 people injured, and 600,000 people left homeless.

Just a few hours after this tragedy hit, the 72 operational members of the Virginia Task Force team, comprised of urban search and rescue technicians, cave-in experts, canine teams, physicians, paramedics, logisticians, and command and control personnel, prepared for one of their toughest missions. They brought with them 56,000 pounds of specialized equipment and supplies, including thermal imaging cameras, listening devices, advance life support medical equipment and supplies, communications equipment, food and water. They soon joined rescue teams from France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Japan and Israel to work round the clock to uncover victims buried under the once protective walls of their home.

Amid the tragedy and destruction of Turkey's massive earthquake, the Virginia Task Force courageously searched in perilous conditions for signs of life. More than 1,000 aftershocks continued to shake the earth and rain pelted against them creating muddy quagmires which complicated their efforts to clear debris and rescue survivors. Yet they demonstrated exemplary perseverance in their mission and successfully pulled four survivors from the twisted ruins. The first rescue was a frightened seven-year-old boy who had been trapped in bed for more than two days when his apartment building collapsed around him. Miraculously, he was not injured. After 4½ hours of chipping, shoveling and sawing through 15 feet of rubble, they saved the life of a vivacious 24-year-old woman in surprisingly high spirits. Another 8 hours of digging uncovered a second woman who had been entombed in the rubble. And 64 hours after the quake struck, miraculously they saved the life of Ayse Cesen, 46, whose brother had given up hope and brought a coffin to collect his body.

I join the country of Turkey in offering our heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the Virginia Task Force Team who selflessly demonstrated their invaluable skills and knowledge to locate survivors and recover victims. I salute the valiant efforts of Anthony MacIntyre, James M. Strickland, Barry Anderson, William Baker, William M. Bertone, Bernard D. Bickham, Donald C. Booth, Edward M. Brinkley, Jon P. Bruley, Gary B. Bunch, Gregory A. Bunch, Carlton G. Burkhammer, John Chabal, James M. Chinn, Brian Cloyd, David P. Conrad, Dean W. Cox, Kevin R. Dabeny, Michael B. Davis, Jeffrey L. Donaldson, Robert C. Dube, Benjamin A. Dye, Garrett L. Dyer, Thomas P. Feehan, Thomas H. Galvez, Thomas J. Griffin, Dan Hafling, Sonja Heritage, Kit R. Hessel, Andrew J. Hubery, Michael A. Istvan, Gerald Jakulski, Joseph M. Kaleda, Joseph E. Knerr, Elizabeth Kreitler, Randal A. Leatherman, Evan J. Lewis, Jeffery S. Lewis, Mark F. Lucas, Ramond Lucas, Craig S. Luecke, Michael J. Marks, Christopher M. Matsos, John C. Mayers, Shawn K. McPherson, Charles Mills, Susan Mingle, Gerard Morrison, Dewey H. Perks, Mark J. Plunkett, Thomas W. Reedy, Michael P. Regan, Michael T. Reilly, Jerome A. Roussillon, Charles S. Ruble, Dean A. Scott, William E. Shugart, Dallas L. Slemp, Frank Stoda, Rex Strickland, Michael Tamillow, David L. Taylor, William E.

Teal, Scott Tezak, Dean Tills, James H. Tolson, Jack Walmer, James J. Walsh, Peter West, Charles A. Williams, Kea A. Zimmerman, and Robert J. Zoldos.

The Virginia Task Force Team and their families deserve the highest praise possible for the sacrifices they have made to come to the aid of the grief-stricken people of Turkey. As they have proven in the past, Fairfax County rescue workers are among the best trained in the world. The expertise they bring to such devastating scenes helps shine a ray of hope on an otherwise desperate situation.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. At a time when our economy is at its strongest in a generation, we should be working to ensure that working Americans can afford a roof over their heads. Unfortunately, the bill the Republicans chose to bring to the floor would leave 128,000 families out in the cold.

By failing to fund the President's request for 100,000 new Section 8 housing vouchers, Republicans will leave 128,000 families out in the cold.

This bill undermines low and moderate income Americans struggling to make ends meet. It fails to fund the President's request for 100,000 new Section 8 vouchers, cutting the legs out from under people making the transition from welfare to work. And it comes at a time when the number of people in need of rental assistance is at an all-time high of 12.5 million—nearly half of whom are children and the elderly.

Mr. NADLER's amendment would help move us back toward investing in affordable housing opportunities for working Americans by funding 50,000 new Section 8 vouchers. We should not leave working Americans out in the cold to help pay for a tax cut that the American people don't want and that our children's future can't afford. I urge members to support this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN MASS. PIONEERS, NATIONAL CHAMPIONS D3 PROFESSIONAL SOCCER

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exciting achieve-

ment of the Western Mass. Pioneers soccer team. On Saturday, September 11, 1999, the Pioneers defeated the South Jersey Barons 2-1 in the National Championship match of the D3 Professional Soccer League. The Pioneers organization became the national champion in just its second year of existence and was also awarded Franchise-of-the-Year status.

Western Massachusetts has long been a hotbed of soccer in America. Immigrants from countries such as Portugal, Poland, Italy, and Ireland brought their passion for the world's game with them as they settled in places like Ludlow, Chicopee, the South End, and Hungry Hill. The fan support at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, MA, the home field of the Pioneers, can only be described as phenomenal. The raucous, yet knowledgeable crowd numbered 5,223 for the final game. In their final three matches, the Pioneers had an average attendance of 4,478, setting a new record each night. Clearly evident of the faces of both the young and the old were the passions of the old countries, as well as the growing American soccer pride.

The strength of Western Massachusetts soccer can be seen on the roster as well, as seven members of the champions are local products. These players include starting goalkeeper John Voight, starting defenders Paul Kelly and Brad Miller, starting midfielder Chris Legowski, defenders Greg Kolodziej and Nate Allen, and backup keeper Danny Pires. Voight was named Championship match MVP, and Kelly was named to the 1999 All D3 Pro League All-Star First Team, as was forward Rob Jachym.

As Champions of the D3 League, the Pioneers may be considered for promotion to the A-League, the division two of American professional soccer. Whether they choose to pursue promotion or to remain in the D3, the Pioneers, led by general manager Rick Andre, have plenty to be proud of this year. Mr. Speaker, once again I am proud and honored to recognize and congratulate the Western Mass. Pioneers, the 1999 National Champions of the D3 Professional Soccer League.

SMALLER SCHOOLS ARE SAFER SCHOOLS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we have done a very good job in this Nation bringing class sizes down. But we have made a bad mistake going to large, centralized schools and closing down thousands of small neighborhood and community schools particularly at the high school level.

This point was made in a very articulate way in a letter entitled "Smaller Schools are Safer Schools" in the August 30th issue of the Christian Science Monitor. I commend this letter by Michael Klonsky to my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

SMALLER SCHOOLS ARE SAFER SCHOOLS

Regarding "Safer Places of Learning" (Aug. 20): The new "militarization" of schools may do more harm than good. Tens of millions of dollars are now being spent, without much thought or planning, on security cameras, metal detectors, and police

may make school violence the expected norm.

This trend also shifts the responsibility for teaching children away from teachers to counselors and police. When the shootings first took place, there was some serious discussion about the size and culture of schools. All the shootings occurred in large schools where kids outside the mainstream could easily fall through the cracks. Teachers and administrators claimed ignorance of the threat from neo-Nazi gangs and antisocial cliques.

But now the discussion has shifted almost entirely toward militarization and regimentation of schools and side issues of student dress codes.

Calling on students to eat lunch with kids they don't normally eat with is a nice idea but it avoids many of the responsibilities that adults should bare, like school restructuring.

Over the next decade we will spend billions in the construction of new gigantic high schools and junior highs. This is a recipe for more Littletons.

If we are serious about safe schools, one of the first things we need to consider is the creation of smaller communities of teachers and learners where kids are known by the people charged with educating them.

CALIFORNIA'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORT STRENGTH AND IT'S SIGNIFICANCE

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, in spite of all the jobs produced by foreign trade in California and the opening of a new round of agricultural trade negotiations expected during the World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting this fall, there continue to be those who claim the U.S. should not undertake new negotiations. I believe what we need are more ways to sell overseas so California farmers can take advantage of their ability to produce quality products.

Exports are vital to California's agricultural industry as well as the California economy. California's agriculture accounts for almost \$7 billion in exports every year. Cotton and almonds, which account for one quarter of California's agricultural exports, are the two largest exports with 83 percent and 55 percent of the crops respectively being sold to foreign markets. We have also seen a booming increase in wine exports, which have grown 80% since 1995. Wine is now the third largest California agricultural export. One third of all California's agriculture output goes to foreign markets.

The three leading export markets for California are Japan, Mexico, and Hong Kong. Japan still offers the largest growth potential in value added products. Mexico is recovering from the effects of the peso devaluation and has resumed its position as the largest market for California's farm agricultural exports. Hong Kong plays a key role as the gateway to Asia for exports. Thanks to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), tariffs between two of California's major markets, Mexico and Canada, are being phased out or have already been eliminated. These markets are not the only ones in which growth is expected.

California has the real possibility of making inroads into new emerging markets with long term potential. Many Asian markets were largely closed to foreign trade until this decade. Latin American nations also have potential to become important long-term importers of California's agricultural products.

Another contributing factor to California's agricultural export strength is the motivation to adopt useful latest technology. Approximately 90,000 farms in California currently have Internet access and the number of farms "on line" has doubled from 23% to 46% in the last two years. Using this tool, farmers have access to commodity prices, weather, news on the latest technology, advice from the USDA and market conditions. This improved access to information will give farmers more control over production and marketing.

In fact, California agriculture has demonstrated remarkable flexibility in marketing its products during the last ten years. Anyone who shops for produce is familiar with the bagged, ready-to-eat salad and vegetable products packed for consumers. Storage techniques have improved to the point where many types of produce are available for months after harvest with the same quality we have come to expect from fresh-picked products. Having perfected these techniques at home, Californians are positioned to offer foreign buyers high quality goods as well.

While California has grown to be the biggest agricultural producer and exporter in the U.S., we should remember that our farmers also have the ability to offset unfair trade restrictions or obtain time to adjust to new market conditions. For example, American lamb producers recently obtained a 3-year recovery program to battle the recent drastic increase in lamb imports. This tariff-rate quota system will impose high tariffs on any lamb imports exceeding a specified amount. This will give our domestic lamb market the ability to recover competitiveness.

Agricultural exports from California continue to grow and support our economy by creating jobs, revenue, and increasing our own economic stability. By continuing trade with our current customers, as well as researching new and emerging markets, California's agricultural production and value will continue to grow. We know we can prosper through trade. What we need to do most is pursue new places and means of trading with other countries.

HONORING SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S 1999 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, as a strong advocate of excellence in education, I am honored today to give recognition to four men and women who have been named San Diego County Teachers of the Year.

These are: Alma Hills, O'Farrell Community School; Karen O'Connor, Sunset Hills Elementary School; Jan Patrick Mongoven, San Marcos High School; and Gualter do Rego Moura, Mission Bay High School.

Excellent education begins at home with strong families. It continues in the classroom, with teachers who do their jobs well, whose

lives are dedicated to the children and the young people that they enrich and inspire. As a former teacher and coach, I understand that teaching is a difficult job whose rewards are not always immediately evident. But nothing that is truly rewarding in life comes easily. And the dedication and commitment shown by San Diego County's finest teachers exemplifies the best of our schools, the best of our communities, and the best of America.

Because education is the passport to the American dream, I want for all of our Nation's young people to have the finest teachers. And while San Diego County has recognized these four for Teacher of the Year honors, eligible for further recognition at the State and national levels, the truth is that there are hundreds and thousands more outstanding teachers where these came from—in public and private schools, in public charter schools, and in home schools across our country. As we work to do better, we can learn from the best.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States note the contributions that San Diego County's 1999 Teachers of the Year have made to the lives of young people in our community, the high standards of professionalism that they exemplify, and their love of teaching and learning.

I commend to my colleagues two news articles describing San Diego County's Teachers of the Year. The first is from the San Diego Union-Tribune of September 19, 1999, and the second is from the Escondido (Calif.) North County Times, of the same date.

[From the San Diego Union Tribune, Sept. 19, 1999]

FOUR SALUTED AS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR (By Angélica Pence)

Four teachers were saluted last night with the San Diego County Teacher of the Year Award for the creative and dedicated ways in which they bring out their students' potential.

Those honored were Alma Hills of O'Farrell Community School, Karen O'Connor of Sunset Hills Elementary School, Jan Patrick Mongoven of San Marcos High School and Gualter do Rego Moura of Mission Bay High School.

This year's winners were announced at a Salute to Teachers ceremony that was broadcast live on Cox Communications Channel 4. The event was held at San Diego's Civic Theatre and co-sponsored by the county Office of Education.

Thirty-one educators throughout the county were nominated by their peers and school districts. Given its size, the county submits four candidates for consideration for the state honor. The award is the first stepping-stone to state and national Teacher of the Year awards.

Candidates are selected on the basis of student achievement, professional development, community involvement and accountability. A nominee's teaching philosophy, personal style, knowledge of educational issues and trends, and promotion and development of the teaching profession are also considered.

For this year's crew of favorites, tapping into each student's talents is a key to their success.

Hills, a language arts and social studies teacher of O'Farrell, has helped prepare hundreds of teen-agers for high school and beyond.

"I live and constantly work with the anticipation that children can grow up to be productive adults in our society," the seventh-grade teacher wrote in her contest application. "I am very anxious about my responsibility to children and society, and so I

teach with a sense of urgency and determination."

Hills received a master's degree in teaching in 1989 from the University of California San Diego. The 13-year veteran is earning administrative credentials from National University.

"Alma believes that a child's education is a journey, not a race," wrote William Rose, O'Farrell's school programs coordinator. "And as their teacher, she has the obligation to monitor, encourage and support every child under her care to succeed on this journey."

Hills, who has worked at 1,490-student O'Farrell for eight years, was the San Diego Unified School District's Teacher of the Year for 1999.

"I have not found the solution to getting every student where he or she needs to be academically," Hills admitted. "But I am clear that I must never stop trying and I must never grow weary in my pursuit."

O'Connor, a third-grade teacher at San Diego's Sunset Hills Elementary, decided to take on teaching later in life than most.

"Because I came to the teaching profession at a relatively late date, I had more times than most to decide what I wanted to be when I grew up," she wrote. "My decision to be a teacher wavered at times, but I knew when I had children of my own and began volunteering at school that I had rediscovered my early desire to teach."

She earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, with honors, from Chapman University. This year her school, the Poway Unified School District and Wal-Mart each recognized her as Teacher of the Year.

O'Connor's ability to see each child as an individual is what sets her apart from other educators, said Sunset Hills principal Steve Hodge.

"I've watched her coach a highly gifted writer into making those subtle improvements that make a good piece of work," Hodge wrote. "Literally 30 seconds later, she's skillfully guiding a severely handicapped student into a learning game with his classmates."

Mongoven's chosen career, on the other hand, is a family tradition.

"One could say I was born into teaching," wrote Mongoven, who teaches genetics and a biotech lab to juniors and seniors at San Marcos High. "The first person to cuddle me and murmur soothing words into my ear was a teacher—my mother. The first person to lift my tiny being into the air and safely return it to the ground was another teacher—my father."

In 1994, Mongoven graduated from National University with a master's in counseling psychology, all the while earning a molecular biology workshop certification from California State University San Marcos.

A two-time National Teacher of the Year nominee, Mongoven was awarded 1999 Teacher of the Year honors in the San Marcos Unified School District.

But he counts his students' achievements, not his awards, among his greatest accomplishments.

"I feel so proud upon hearing that a former student has become a nurse, doctor, lab tech, chiropractor, research scientist or marine biologist," wrote Mongoven, who has been teaching for a quarter-century. Among them, "I proudly recall Karin Perkins (genetics class of '86) saying she was off to Stanford University as a graduate student to work on the Human Genome Project."

Moura, a Portuguese immigrant, learned early on to love and respect education.

"In Portugal, I learned that school is everything," he wrote. "Teachers were highly regarded—like demigods. Their words were the Golden Rule."

Since then, Moura has worked hard to pass his respect for learning to his students.

"My greatest success in teaching is instilling the belief in students that they can accomplish anything they desire," wrote Moura, who has taught mathematics at Mission Bay High for six years. "I must help students realize and recognize their potential and help the formation of an appreciation for mathematics."

Moura has degrees and teaching credentials from National University, San Diego State University and Mesa College. During the 1998-99 school year, he was named Teacher of the Year by his school as well as the San Diego Unified School District.

"Gualter Moura is a man for all seasons!" wrote Donna Bullock, head counselor at Mission Bay High. "He is one who is able to deal with the exceptional math students as well as the student who (has) difficulty with language. The counselors occasionally assign students to his classes who are unable to achieve in another environment."

[From the Escondido (Calif.) North County Times, Sept. 19, 1999]

2 LOCAL TEACHERS NAMED BEST IN COUNTY (By Joseph Gimenez)

SAN DIEGO.—Two North County teachers were among the four educators who received San Diego County Teacher of the Year awards Saturday night.

Jan Mongoven, a science teacher at San Marcos High School, and Karen O'Connor, a third-grade teacher who specializes in writing instruction at Poway's Sunset Hills Elementary School, joined two San Diego Unified District teachers as the honorees at a banquet at the San Diego Civic Theatre. O'Connor accepted her award, saying, "I can't believe this. Thank you so much."

"They told us to have a 15-second speech ready in case we won, but I didn't," she said. "It has been a humbling experience." Mongoven thanked his parents and family. "I couldn't stand up without the support of my wife and my sons," he said.

Moura of Mission Bay High School and Alma Hills of O'Farrell Community School also received the Cox Communications-sponsored awards at Saturday's 26-year-old ceremony.

Each school district in the county selects a Teacher of the Year who can apply for the county award. Saturday's four winners were among 10 finalists who advanced to the awards ceremonies after interviews and screenings. The 10 finalists selected from 31 nominees included two other North County teachers: Mary Lou Schultz of Pacific View School in Encinitas and Giff Asimos of Ramona High School.

O'Connor has taught third- and fourth-graders in Poway since 1986. She is a San Diego State University graduate who earned teaching credentials from the University of San Diego and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction at Chapman University.

"One thing that really sets Karen apart is her incredible ability to see each child as an individual and to know exactly what each child needs to succeed," Sunset Hills Principal Steve Hodge wrote in a background package for the nominees.

"I've watched her coach a highly gifted writer into making those subtle improvements that make a good piece of writing a great piece of work. Literally 30 seconds later, she's skillfully guiding a severely handicapped, fully included student into a learning game with his classmates. But, most remarkably, she knows exactly what that average child, the one who does average work and demands little attention, needs to

move to the next stage in his or her development."

O'Connor also assists the district with its proprietary writing programs and assessments.

Mongoven has been a teacher and athletic coach at San Marcos High School since 1974. He attended San Diego State University, where he earned his bachelor of science degree in zoology and his teaching credentials.

He earned his master's degree in counseling psychology at National University in 1994. In his application letter, Mongoven credited his parents, who had six decades of teaching experience between them, and other instructors who inspired him.

"I have indelible memories of my finest teachers," Mongoven wrote.

"Hoisting me by the back of the shirt collar, Mr. Bradford dangled this would-be class clown like a mortified Howdy Doody in front of his sixth-grade chums (saying) 'Jan, I expect more of you.'"

San Marcos District Superintendent Larry Maw praised Mongoven's professionalism in a letter to the county selection committee. "Jan is an expert in his subject matter of biology and genetics, and is recognized throughout the county and state as a leader in his field," Maw wrote.

"His unique courses provide students the opportunity to experience a college-level course while still on the high school campus. ...The high success rate of his students reflects his philosophy of presenting material in a way so that all students will succeed in his classroom."

All four of Saturday's honorees qualify to compete for the state's Teacher of the Year award. The four were each presented \$1,000 in cash, etched crystal apples, and an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. Hewlett-Packard is donating computer equipment to the schools of all 10 finalists this year.

O'Connor joins four other Poway district teachers—Robert Pacilio, Linda Foote, Lori Brickley and Kristie Szentesi—in winning the county award since 1995. Five other Poway district teachers won the awards in the '70s and '80s. Mongoven joins Carol Scurlock, who won the award in 1993, as the two San Marcos district teachers to win the award since 1974.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1059, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, the following is the agreement reached between Chairman SPENCE, Chairman BILEY, and myself in regard to the respective jurisdictions of each of our committees over the newly created National Nuclear Security Administration.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING JURISDICTIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF TITLE XXXII OF S. 1059, THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000, SEPTEMBER 14, 1999

This statement addresses the intent and understanding of the undersigned as it pertains to the impact of title XXXII (National Nuclear Security Administration Act) of S. 1059, the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

2000, on the jurisdiction of the Committees on Armed Services, Commerce, and Science of the House of Representatives.

The adoption of the conference report is not intended, and should not be construed as an attempt, to modify, expand, or diminish the jurisdiction of the Committees on Armed Services, Commerce, or Science over the Department of Energy, or any of its subordinate entities, programs, functions, or activities pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House. We agree that futures legislative referrals and other related matters shall remain consistent with referrals made under the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Speaker's understanding of applicable precedents.

Consistent with these principles and section 3211(a) of S. 1059, which establishes a new National Nuclear Security Administration within the Department of Energy, the Committee on Commerce shall maintain jurisdiction over the general management and public health aspects of the Department of Energy.

Further, the adoption of the conference report is not intended to modify or diminish the existing jurisdiction of the Committee on Science over all energy and scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects thereof, commercial application of energy technology, and environmental research and development programs, projects, and activities conducted at the facilities to be included within the new National Nuclear Security Administration. In addition, the enactment of Title XXXII is neither intended to modify or diminish the existing jurisdiction of the Committee on Science over all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories.

FLOYD D. SPENCE,
Chairman, Committee
on Armed Services.

TOM BLILEY,
Chairman, Committee
on Commerce.

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER,
Jr.,
Chairman, Committee
on Science.

ANOTHER PRIEST MURDERED IN INDIA

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, another Christian missionary has been murdered in India, according to recent press reports. According to India West, the priest, whose name was Aruldoss, was killed on September 2 with poison arrows by a Hindu mob in the village of Jambani in the state of Orissa.

This is the same region where Graham Staines, an Australian missionary, and his 8-year-old and 10-year-old sons were set on fire and murdered by a Hindu mob allied with the ruling party while they were sleeping in their van. The mob surrounded the van and kept anyone from getting to the Staines family, chanting "Victory to Lord Ram" while the Staines family was burning to death. Now the government has designated a single individual in the mob to take the fall in order to protect the government's allies.

Apparently, Aruldoss has been involved in conversions of Hindus to Christianity. According to the Hindu fundamentalists who run the

government and their allies, virtually all conversions are called "forced" conversions. One of the ministers in the Orissa government, Ajit Tripathy, claimed that Christians were causing all the trouble by "trying to separate families after converting tribals and others, which is leading to social tensions." This kind of religious intolerance and excuse for mob violence has no place in a country that proudly labels itself "the world's largest democracy."

Authorities have said that the mob was angry about the observance of a religious festival. While the Hindus in the region were celebrating the festival of Nuakhai, the local Christians were holding a festival of their own. Remember that in 1997, a Christian festival was broken up by police gunfire.

There is a disturbing pattern of religious intolerance in India, not only towards Christians, but towards Muslims and Sikhs as well. None of these groups can enjoy full religious or political rights, and they are among the 17 freedom movements within India. The Indian government's response to these efforts to achieve freedom is bloodshed. Thousands are being held in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some have been there for 15 years.

I would like to submit the India West article on this event into the RECORD to inform my colleagues about the kind of country that India really is.

ORISSA PRIEST MURDERED, LINKED TO CONVERSIONS

BHUBANESHWAR—Unidentified assailants killed a Christian missionary with poisoned arrows in a remote village in Orissa, a senior government official said Sept. 2.

"Preliminary reports say that a Christian . . . was attacked and killed by poisoned arrows last night," Orissa state chief secretary Sahadeva Sahoo told Reuters by telephone.

Police said Sept. 3 that an incident linked to the religious conversions of Hindus may have led to the murder of a Christian priest in a remote eastern Indian village this week.

"Local issues seem to have led to the killing," Pradeep Kapoor, police chief of Mayurbhanj district in Orissa, told Reuters. He was speaking by telephone from Karanjia town near the village where the priest, identified only as Aruldoss, was killed Sept. 2.

"It was a dispute over the observing of some festival," Sahoo said, without giving details.

"It is a very remote, inaccessible jungle area. Information is not coming easily. Even the ministers couldn't go there because helicopters cannot land within 5 km (3 miles) of the jungle area," Sahoo said.

Assailants shooting bows and arrows killed the missionary in Jambani, a hamlet of only 12 families in Mayurbhanj district.

Christian groups and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee have condemned the killing, which took place in the region where an Australian missionary, Graham Staines, and his two young sons were burnt to death in January as they slept in their jeep.

"There was a dispute over the celebration of Nuakhai, a Hindu festival. The (Christian) converts separately held the festival which might have angered the nearby villagers," Kapoor said.

"Several people have been rounded up for interrogation but no one has been arrested so far," he said.

Sahoo said earlier that two people had been arrested but gave no details.

Ajit Tripathy, the Orissa home secretary, said priests were causing tension in the area.

"Catholic priests are trying to separate the families after converting tribals and oth-

ers, which is leading to social tension," Tripathy said.

Mayurbhanj district chief R. Balakrishnan said 10 of the 12 families in the hamlet had been converted recently by the slain missionary.

Christian missionaries had ignored warnings by authorities after the killing of Staines not to visit remote villages without informing them, he said.

Staines also worked in the districts of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar.

An inquiry into Staines' murder blamed a lone religious fanatic wanted by police. It exonerated a Hindu group considered close to Vajpayee's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party to which fingers of suspicion were initially pointed.

Hindu activists accuse Christian missionaries of using coercion or economic incentives to force religious conversions in remote tribal areas of India. Christian missionaries deny the charge.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission Sept. 5 rejected the Orissa government's proposal to shift general of police Dilip Mohapatra in the wake of his reported controversial remarks on the killing of the priest.

Chief Election Commissioner M.S. Gill told PTI: "We are in the midst of elections which will end by October 10. Therefore, the commission desires that Mohapatra, who is a key functionary, be not be shifted till October 10."

Gill made it clear that the Orissa chief secretary, home secretary and the DGP should under no circumstances be disturbed in any manner till the conclusion of the poll process.

The state government had sought the commission's permission to transfer and revert Mohapatra to the rank of additional DGP for his reported remarks linking Catholic priest Aruldoss's killing to "forced conversions."

Chief Minister Giridhar Gamang faced an angry outburst from church leaders Sept. 4, who demanded immediate suspension of home secretary Ajit Kumar Tripathy as well over his reported statement that Catholic priests were trying to split families through conversions.

Gamang had gone to attend the funeral of the slain priest at Balasore.

HONORING EDWIN L. BEHRENS ON HIS CAREER WITH PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edwin L. Behrens, Director of National Government Relations with the Procter & Gamble Company, who is retiring after 38 years with the company.

Ed began his career with Procter & Gamble in 1961 in Cincinnati, Ohio, after receiving both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Ed also holds an M.B.A. from Xavier University in Cincinnati. Ed held positions in technical brand management, consumer research; and state and federal government relations. In 1967, Ed was awarded a patent for detergent formulations.

In 1976, Ed transferred to Procter & Gamble's Washington, DC office to represent the company at the federal level. He was appointed Director of National Government Relations in 1992. Ed actively advanced federal

"risk assessment" regulatory reform policy. In 1979, Ed was instrumental in initiating a pioneering study by the National Academy of Sciences, Risk Assessment in the Federal Government: Managing the Process. This year, Ed participated in the Academy's reorganization and a second seminal study, Science, Technology and the Law.

Currently, Ed is responsible for Procter & Gamble's federal policy on advertising, energy, the environment, labor, research and development and telecommunications. His principal focus has been on Internet privacy policy. He serves as Chairman of the BBB Online Steering Committee, overseeing the development of self-regulatory privacy approach for American industry.

Ed and his wife, Wanda, live in Great Falls, Virginia, and have two sons. Both Ed and Wanda are committed to their community. Ed chairs the University of Wisconsin Foundation in the Washington, DC area. Wanda is a leader in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's annual "Race for the Cure."

Mr. Speaker, we salute Ed Behrens as he completes 38 years of service to the Procter & Gamble Company.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCES ACT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce a bill that is about solutions. About solutions for women in need. It's called the Women and Children's Resources Act and it is truly seeking to improve women's health and offer a woman compassionate choices when she finds herself facing an unplanned pregnancy.

This is legislation that can frankly bring pro-life and pro-choice together to offer real solutions to women—on common ground. If today's women need choices we must offer them real choices. We must offer them compassion. To truly respect women and to respect the value and uniqueness of all human life—both mother and child—we need to meet their needs in a holistic way. This is the essence of caring for women.

We all rejoice when we hear that the abortion rate is dropping in America. We rejoice because we know that it is due in part to the compassionate services and alternatives that are being offered to today's women.

Indeed, as Frederica Mathewes-Green has said so well, many women would choose not to have an abortion if only they knew that other options were available to them.

Alternatives like adoption services, maternity home stays, crisis pregnancy centers, caring extended church families and religious communities, even para-church organizations.

I'm pleased to have representatives from some of these organizations here today. It is each of you who provide the time-intensive, long-term, compassionate assistance to women—women who may be scared, poor, lonely, even confused. Thank you.

The Women and Children's Resources Act takes a successful model—the Pennsylvania model—and expands it for all 50 states. In Pennsylvania, because of a fee-for-service

funding stream that goes directly to crisis pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and adoption services, small organizations that meet these needs are helping hundreds more women than they would have been able to otherwise.

At the federal level, the 85 million dollar grant that would be set up through the Women and Children's Resources Act will provide a helping hand to such organizations all over the United States—organizations meeting essential needs of women, through: Testing for pregnancy; follow-up services; prenatal and postpartum health care; health and nutritional needs of pregnant and postpartum women; and essential information on childbirth, parenting, and pregnancy during adolescence.

For thousands of women, unfortunately, unplanned pregnancy is a reality. We are here today because we care about women in these situations.

Even as funding for Title X continues to grow, small organizations like crisis pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies rely almost solely on contributions from concerned citizens just to keep their shoe-string budgets afloat.

Mother Teresa showed us that the most important thing we can do is to meet the needs of those in our midst, those on our street corner, those in our cities and towns, those who come to us for help.

The Women and Children's Resources Act empowers those who are making a tangible difference in the lives of women facing an unplanned pregnancy. This is a critical part of offering choices. And this is the very essence of compassion. And this is something on which pro-choice and pro-life people can agree: that women facing crisis pregnancies need compassionate assistance.

MODEL TEACHER: CHARLOTTE RAY

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I have heard hours of testimony on the failure of our nation's public education system. Far too often, we fail to recognize the success stories, and the thousands of men and women that dedicate their lives to the education of our children. Next to parents, I believe the most important factor in whether or not a child succeeds academically is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. With that in mind, today I rise in recognition of a model teacher from Lexington, Kentucky—the kind of teacher that every child in Kentucky, and across the nation, deserves to have standing in front of the chalkboard.

Fayette County Public Schools recently honored Charlotte Ray as high school teacher of the year. During her twenty-seven years as a ninth grade chemistry and physics teacher, she has touched the lives of hundreds of children by showing them that there is much more to science than what can be found in a textbook. With an energy level that rivals her students, Mrs. Ray uses the entire school as her laboratory and through hands-on experimentation teaches students that learning can be both interesting and fun.

Mrs. Ray is also a teacher that enjoys her job. In her acceptance speech, she said, "My family encouraged me at the end of last year to think about retiring. Perhaps they were optimistic for better meals, or for ironed shirts. I'm not a very good cook and I sure don't want to iron. I'm still having a great time in the classroom." Her enthusiasm is contagious, so contagious that she was nominated not by her principal, or a group of her peers, but by the parent of a former student. She has also benefited from the school system in which she serves. A product of Kentucky public education, she graduated from Bryan Station High School in Lexington, and went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Kentucky University, followed by a Master's Degree from the University of Kentucky.

As the students and faculty of Lafayette High School celebrate Charlotte Ray's award, I would like to commend her on this achievement, and encourage all of us to look to her as an example of one of education's brightest stars.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN P. GEIS: 30 YEARS OF HONOR, DUTY AND SERVICE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Brigadier General John P. Geis, who is retiring after 30 years of honorable service in the United States Army. On October 6, 1999, General Geis will be stepping down after one year as commander of the Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey.

General Geis was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas on January 31, 1947, and later attended Arkansas State University. He completed the Reserve Officers Training Corps program there, and graduated as a Second Lieutenant in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Logistics Management from Central Michigan University, and received additional training through a number of advanced military courses, including the Army War College.

General Geis developed his expertise in weapons systems as a result of his extensive involvement with the Army's research and development programs. Prior to his service as commander of TACOM-ARDEC, General Geis served as Commanding General of U.S. Army Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command (Florida); Executive Office to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition); Project Manager, Advanced Field Artillery System/Future Armored Resupply Vehicle; Project Manager, Future Armored Resupply Vehicle; Director for Program Integration, ASA (RDA); Chief, Logistics Plans and Operations, Combined Field Army, Korea; Commander, 27th Main Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division; Logistics Staff Officer, ODCSLOG, HQDA; and Chief, Weapons Systems Assessments, HQ Army Material Command.

While serving as Picatinny Arsenal's commanding officer, General Geis has exercised

calm and caring leadership to help move the base ahead in a time of downsizing, realignment and change. During General Geis' tenure at Picatinny, TACOM-ARDEC has received numerous awards for its work on the Army's weapons of the future, including the Crusader Self-Propelled Howitzer, the Lightweight 155 Towed Howitzer, the Objective Individual Combat Weapon (OICW), and the Precision Guided Mortar Munition (PGMM).

Under General Geis' command, the awards bestowed upon Picatinny include the Army Communities of Excellence, Chief of Staff of Army Award; the New Jersey Quality Achievement Award; the U.S. Army R&D Organization of the Year; and the U.S. Army R&D Excellence Award. These awards acknowledge what I have long known, that the men and women working at Picatinny Arsenal are the recognized experts in munitions technology.

Mr. Speaker, I again commend General Geis for his 30 years of service to his country. I wish him and his wife Lee all the best in the years to come as they embark on their new life in Virginia.

UNFETTERED LEGISLATIVE DEBATE MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER A WITCH HUNT FOR GAYS IN THE MILITARY—LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT INITIATED BY CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK AND TOM CAMPBELL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest support for the efforts of our distinguished colleagues and my friends, the gentleman from Massachusetts, Congressman BARNEY FRANK, and the gentleman from California, Congressman TOM CAMPBELL, for their principled commitment to the sanctity of unfettered legislative debate. These two colleagues—one a Democrat and the other a Republican—acted quickly and responsibly by sending a letter to the President in the matter of Arizona State Representative Stephen May, who is facing possible discharge from the Army Reserves because he discussed his sexual orientation within a relevant context during an official debate in the Arizona House of Representatives.

Like my colleagues, I find it absolutely intolerable that a duly elected States legislator should be punished by the military for appropriate comments which he made during the course of an official debate in the Arizona State Legislature. Taking action against a State representative for what he said in debate as elected legislator is a violation of the spirit of the "speech and debate clause" of the United States Constitution. The overwhelming majority of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, have strongly defended the democratic privilege of American legislators to speak freely, without having to fear that they will be prosecuted for comments they choose to make during official, public debate.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman FRANK and Congressman CAMPBELL have written an eloquent defense of the principle of legislative debate to the President of the United States. I thank them both for their leadership on this issue,

and I ask that the full text of their excellent letter be placed in the RECORD. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join in signing this excellent letter to the President.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President, The White House
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to urge you to honor the tradition of full and unfettered legislative debate in America by instructing the Defense Department to drop charges against State Representative Stephen May of Arizona.

As you know, Representative May now faces potential discharge from the military because in his capacity as a member of the Arizona Legislature, during formal debate on legislative matters, he alluded to his sexual orientation in a context in which such an allusion was fully relevant.

The signers of this letter have varying views on the merits of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy regarding the military. But we do not write this letter as a commentary on that policy. Rather, we are writing because we as elected representatives believe strongly in that principle embodied in the "speech and debate clause" of the American Constitution which seeks to extend full protection to members of legislative bodies from any sanction for comments they legitimately make in the course of legislative debate.

We recognize, of course, that the speech and debate clause does not technically apply to members of State Legislatures. If it did, presumably this letter would be unnecessary. But we do believe in the policy embodied in that clause—namely that only when elected legislators are confident of their ability to speak out freely without any fear of external sanction from outside the legislative body can the process of representative government flourish.

As a student of Constitutional history, you know that this clause made its way into the United States Constitution in reaction to the harassment of members of the British Parliament that occurred in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. There was then a tradition of members of the House of Commons in particular suffering penalties for speaking freely in the course of legislative debate. Thus, the speech and debate clause as it is known says "and for any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other place."

The purpose of this is so that members of legislative bodies in fulfillment of their duty fully to represent their constituents need not fear that members of the Executive, or Judicial branches will penalize them for comments of which they disapprove. What is being proposed regarding Representative May is for the federal Executive Branch to punish an elected member of the Arizona State Legislature because of comments he chose to make that were fully relevant to a public policy debate in the legislature to which he was duly elected. We find it difficult to believe that you, as a believer in the importance of full legislative debate, would permit the Executive Branch over which you preside to punish an elected legislator for remarks made in the course of legislative debate.

As we noted earlier, we realize that the Constitutional clause protecting Members of Congress does not apply to State Legislators. But obviously the justification for that clause—preserving full freedom of debate—applies very strongly. Indeed, we believe there is an added policy reason why you should not allow your Executive Branch to penalize Representative May for comments

made in the course of legislative debate. That is the respect that the federal government ought to show for the democratic process within the states. The speech and debate clause says that no Members of Congress shall be made to answer "in any other place". Surely that applies with strong logical force to a situation in which the federal Executive Branch would reach down and take punitive action against an elected member of the Arizona Legislature. Certainly the Arizona Legislature ought to be considered by the federal Executive Branch competent to run its own affairs, and we believe that you will be setting a terrible precedent if you allow the military to go forward with its proposed action against Representative May.

While some have suggested that no Members of Congress, for example, should serve in the Reserves, that has not been our policy. The military clearly has strong views about many issues. And the general rule is that members of military are not to take issue with official policy. Are federal and state legislators who serve in the Reserves now to begin to censor their comments in relevant legislative debates lest they face sanctions imposed by the federal Executive Branch?

As you know, Members of Congress have long treated the "speech and debate clause" as a matter of high Congressional privilege, embodying a principle essential to the functioning of our democracy. Our history is replete with examples of the overwhelming majority of both Houses of Congress, including the bi-partisan Congressional leadership of both Houses, coming to the defense of legislators who are faced with potential sanction for remarks which they made in debate, even in cases where the overwhelming majority of legislators strongly disagreed with the remarks in question. If Representative May is to be subjected to the severe sanction of expulsion from the military, where he has served with such distinction and without any negative marks on his record, the principle that legislators must be free from having to answer in any other place for comments they choose to make in public debate will have been more seriously eroded than in any other single instance that we can recall in recent times.

We prepared to debate the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy among ourselves in our contexts. But here, we ask you to show the respect for unfettered legislative debate that has long been a hallmark of American democratic practice and drop any effort to punish a duly elected member of a state legislature for comments made during the course of debate.

HONORING JOHN SEPULVEDA FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to join with the New Haven Hispanic community as they gather this evening to pay tribute to my dear friend, John U. Sepulveda. I regret that I am unable to join this evening's celebration though I am proud to convey my sincere congratulations to John as he is honored by Casa Otonal and the Hispanic community.

Before setting his sights on our nation's capitol, John was an active member of the New Haven community. A graduate of Yale

University, member of the Board of Education, and serving as a special assistant to former U.S. Representative Bruce Morrison, John was a driving force in revitalizing the economy and development of New Haven.

Perhaps his most distinguished service to the New Haven community was his tenure as Executive Director of the Hill Development Corporation. Hill Development is a non-profit corporation located in the Hill neighborhood that works to provide low-income housing and other services to some of our community's most vulnerable families. John's tenure as the Executive Director began at a time when the agency was struggling financially and lacked essential community support. John's dedication and unparalleled commitment brought community support to the Hill Development Corporation and the direction needed to ensure its success. Today, the Hill Development Corporation is one of the city's most successful non-profit agencies—an achievement made possible through John's leadership and vision.

As you may know, John is now the Deputy Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management. He has also served the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for the Federal Housing Administration and as Director of the Federal Housing Administration's office of Insured Health Care Facilities at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is great to know that what John and his wife, Awilda, were able to achieve at the local level in New Haven, they are now able to do on a national scale. My congratulations to both of them.

It is an honor for me to take this opportunity to join the New Haven Hispanic community to offer my most sincere thanks to my good friend, John Sepulveda, for the many contributions he has made to the City of New Haven.

ST. MARY'S CENTENNIAL

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church in Duryea, Pennsylvania. The parish will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary with a banquet this month and I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

In the nineteenth century, many immigrants from Eastern Europe flocked to Northeastern Pennsylvania to pursue the American dream of religious and economic freedom. In 1897, a group of Polish immigrants in the area found a true leader in a young priest named Francis Hodur. He guided them spiritually and, under his leadership, a "mother church" was founded in Scranton. Today, this beautiful church is known to all as St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

A year later, another group of Polish Catholics invited Father Hodur to help them organize their own parish. They applied for a charter and in September of 1899, a charter was granted to Saint Mary's Polish National Catholic Church. Through the hard work and dedication of the parish, a new church was built and dedicated by 1908. While renovating and improving the original church building over the years, the parish has striven to keep and restore the beautiful original statues, altars, and other church artifacts.

Mr. Speaker, this proud parish in Duryea has much to celebrate. The hard working, dedicated parishioners at this beautiful church contribute to the fine quality of life that we enjoy in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Father Thadeusz Kluczek and the church's members help to continue the traditions of the country of their ancestors so that generations to come will feel the spirit and dedication of the small group of Polish immigrants who founded St. Mary's. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to bring this proud church's history to the attention of my colleagues and send my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to everyone at St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1059, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering an excellent FY 2000 Defense Authorization Conference Report, and I thank the conferees in the House and Senate for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

With rapidly growing threats worldwide to our national security, we must begin to rebuild our military from years of decimation and escalating deployments. Mr. Speaker, this authorization responds to these concerns.

As a former navigator of a B-52 bomber in the Air Force and a Vietnam veteran, I am particularly excited about the upgrades and procurement of Air Force and Navy aircraft, especially for the EA-6B Prowler—our military's only radar support jammer for all the services, including joint air operations. Further, the pilot retention reforms contained in the Authorization, including enlistment bonus and special pay reform, are essential. We have the best Air Force in the world—no country comes close. Yet we have trouble holding on to the best pilots because we simply do not take care of them.

We frequently ask our men and women in the military to leave their families, fight for our national security, and even die for our freedom and liberty. Yet, we do not provide our service personnel with the pay or equipment it takes to get the job done right. It is appalling that even one of these families must seek welfare just to put food on the table and buy clothes for their children. I honestly believe that the authorization we have before us today will go a long way in correcting this problem.

I urge my colleagues to support this conference report, which will prove a boon to the dedicated soldiers in our armed services.

SIDNEY PEERLESS, M.D., TO RE- CEIVE AMERICAN JEWISH COM- MITTEE HONOR

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, the American Jewish Committee's Cincinnati Chapter will

soon give special recognition to one of my most distinguished constituents and a good friend, Sidney Peerless, M.D. On October 9, Dr. Peerless will be presented with the prestigious Community Service Award.

Dr. Peerless, an otolaryngologist and plastic surgeon, is well known and respected as a physician. He has directed the otolaryngology department at both Providence and Jewish Hospitals, and he was president of the medical staff at Jewish Hospital. Dr. Peerless is a clinical professor at the University of Cincinnati, and was recently honored by the University for his contributions to teaching.

A committed community leader, Dr. Peerless has been a member of the boards of the Jewish National Fund; Bonds for Israel; the Cincinnati Zoo; Children's Hospital; Shaare Zedek Hospital; and Jewish Hospital. Dr. Peerless has received numerous awards, including the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine's Daniel Drake Award for service to the Cincinnati community and to patients, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Hebrew Union College.

Dr. Peerless was born in Cincinnati and graduated from the University of Cincinnati. He has five children and fourteen grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Dr. Peerless on receiving this prestigious and well deserved award, and we commend him for his lifelong dedication to his patients and his community.

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN MUSLIM ALLIANCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 4TH ANNUAL AMA NA- TIONAL CONVENTION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the leadership of the American Muslim Alliance (AMA) and all the convention participants on the occasion of the Fourth Annual AMA National Convention being held in Orlando, Florida.

Political participation in the electoral process is important for every American. I commend the participants of AMA for its activity in gaining knowledge and making the necessary contacts for full involvement in the American political process.

I commend the AMA for its ability to rise above basic participation to motivating American Muslims to become active participants in public office. AMA local and national organizers, through leadership training sessions held in several states, have set the groundwork for American Muslims themselves to run for elected positions. By encouraging Muslims to run for public office, the AMA has brought political participation among the Muslim community to a higher level.

It is evident that AMA has played a crucial role in training and educating American Muslims nationwide about the political process. My colleagues, please join me in honoring AMA and its convention participants for this conference that will hopefully motivate more Muslims to consider a future in public service.

SALUTE TO TERRY AND CAROLE
YORK

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Terry and Carole York, who are being honored this year by the Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley as the recipients of their Golden Hands Award. Terry and Carole have, for decades, given unstintingly of their time, talents and resources to worthy organizations throughout the San Fernando Valley. Their dedication and sense of compassion, especially where children are concerned, know no bounds and their altruism and community spirit serves as a shining example.

The Yorks have been among the strongest boosters of the Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley for over 25 years. During that time their support has enabled the club to assist hundreds of youth from underprivileged backgrounds get a fresh start with their lives.

Terry and Carole have also been strong supporters of the City of Hope, American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, and a myriad of other civic, charitable, and humanitarian causes. On her own, Carole has worked as a volunteer with Penny Lane, a home for girls in need, and has been involved with Olive View Medical Center.

While contributing tirelessly to their community, the Yorks have raised a close and devoted family of four. Carole paints, gardens and loves to spoil her two grandchildren. Terry is a successful and distinguished businessman. Within 5 years, he moved from file clerk to general manager and part owner of an auto dealership. Today there are 10 franchises in the Terry York Automotive Group. His best sale, he loves to say, was to his future wife, over 30 years ago.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Terry and Carole York, who have made a positive difference in the lives of so many. I wish the best to both of them, their children, Todd, Natalie, Tom, and Tiffany, and their two grandchildren, Logan and Weston.

REFLECTING ON THE 150 NEW
YEARS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO
JEWISH COMMUNITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in recent days, Jews around the world have celebrated the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. As these religious holidays have been commemorated, the Jewish community of San Francisco has marked a particular milestone—the 150th anniversary of the Jewish community of San Francisco. The contributions that its members have made to the civic, charitable, and economic well-being of the Bay Area are truly extraordinary, and the history of Jewish life in San Francisco merits both our attention and our admiration.

Mr. Speaker, 150 years ago, during the brief interval between the Mexican-American War and the Civil War, pioneers and risk-takers

from around the world descended upon San Francisco. These individuals represented every imaginable race and ethnic origin, united only by their desire to find gold in their mining pans and win an instant fortune. Some 100,000 fortune-seeking "Forty Niners" arrived in the Bay Area in the year after President James K. Polk announced the discovery of gold at Sutter's Fort in his State of the Union address in December 1848.

Among the multitude drawn to San Francisco was a small number of Jews, some from the eastern states of our country and other from as far away as Poland, Prussia, and Bavaria. They joined the dynamic melting pot of people with a great diversity of backgrounds and views, and helped to create the uniquely diverse cultural life that flourishes in San Francisco to this day.

In recognition of the critical contributions of the Jewish community to the City of San Francisco and to the entire Bay Area, I would like to place in the RECORD a September 10, 1999, article by Don Lattin of the San Francisco Chronicle which details the birth of Jewish life in the Bay Area 150 years ago. This article is part of a series of articles that have appeared over the past year in connection with the sesquicentennial of the discovery of gold in California and the events connected with California's accession to the Union in 1850 as the 31st state.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 10, 1999]

SAN FRANCISCO JEWS' 150 NEW YEARS

(By Don Lattin)

San Francisco's Gold Rush brought adventure seekers and fortune hunters from around the world, and the "Israelites," as they were called at the time, were no exception.

One-hundred fifty years ago this month, 30 pioneer Jews from Poland, Prussia, Bavaria and the Eastern United States gathered in Lewis Franklin's tent store on Jackson Street to commemorate Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

Franklin, 29, had come to the booming town from Baltimore. In a prophecy that would come to pass for many Gold Rush immigrants, he read from the Book of Ecclesiastes: "These shining baubles may lure the million," he read, "but they will take unto themselves wings, and flee from thee, leaving thou as naked as when thou were first created."

Those communal prayers, the first public Jewish worship service known to have been held in the West, led to the founding of San Francisco's two leading Reform movement synagogues, Congregation Emanu-El and Congregation Sherith Israel.

Less than 2 years after that first citywide Rosh Hashanah, in April 1851, ethnic disputes and class differences had spawned rival houses of worship, with the more traditional Poles establishing Sherith Israel and the more liberal Germans founding Emanu-El.

"German Jews came from refined society. It was the height of European culture," said Rabbi Stephen Pearce, the current spiritual leader of Emanu-El. "German Jews were more liberal and among the leading citizens of the city, people like Levi Strauss."

This month, as both congregations begin a year-long series of mostly separate anniversary events, echoes of that Gold Rush rivalry remain. Differences in leadership styles and a recent price war over membership dues have replaced ethnicity and ancient arguments over Jewish ritual as the bones of contention.

But Rabbi Martin Weiner, who has led Sherith Israel for 27 years, prefers to play down the differences and avoid discussing whatever rivalry remains.

"Every synagogue had slightly different traditions, but those divisions have faded," he said. "Both have served the community well."

This Sunday, on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Weiner and Cantor Martin Feldman, a Sherith Israel fixture since 1960, will lead a traditional Rosh Hashanah service in the shadow of the TransAmerica Building. That is only a block from where the city's first Yom Kippur service was held, on Sept. 26, 1849, ending the city's first services for the High Holy Days.

Actors in period costumes will be featured this Sunday, along with the traditional sounding of the shofar, or ram's horn.

As it did for many of San Francisco's first religious congregations, fires and earthquakes kept the pioneer Jewish community on the move.

Sherith Israel's first quarters, at Merchants Court on Washington Street between Montgomery and Sansome streets, was destroyed by the great fire of 1851, as was the congregation's next home on Kearny Street.

The cornerstone of the congregation's present building at California and Webster streets was laid on Feb. 22, 1904. The interior of the landmark edifice, designed by Albert Pissus, retains an old world flavor with magnificent mahogany woodwork.

Members of Congregation Emanu-El have worshiped beneath their graceful dome at Lake and Arguello streets since 1926, when they abandoned and razed their twin-towered synagogue on Sutter Street. That edifice, on the side of Nob Hill above Union Square, had towered over the city scape since 1866, even after it lost its two onion-shaped domes in the great 1906 earthquake.

Congregation Emanu-El began its 150th anniversary celebration last month with an architectural exhibit, running through January 2, entitled "Emanu-El—Image on the Skyline, Impact on the City." It brings together photographs, maps, drawings and blueprints to tell the tale of San Francisco's largest and most prosperous synagogue.

In 1854, Julius Eckman was hired as the first rabbi to preside over Emanu-El's original house of worship, a neogothic synagogue built on Broadway for \$35,000. A scholarly graduate of the University of Berlin, Eckman lasted only a year at the Reform-minded congregation.

Many of Congregation Emanu-El's early members were Gold Rush merchants, including some who went on to establish great fortunes, like the Levi Strauss clothing empire. Jesse Seligman, the son of a poor Bavarian farmer, founded a dry goods business in San Francisco in 1859, using that as a springboard into international investment banking.

Another Bavarian Jew who prospered as a Gold Rush merchant, 25-year-old August Helbing, arrived here from New Orleans in 1849. He founded the Eureka Benevolent Society, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary in its current incarnation, Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties.

In founding the charity, Helbing sought to care for "the Israelites landing here, broken in health or destitute in means."

Indeed, the Gold Rush is full of stories about people going from rags to riches, and back to rags. In their book, "Pioneer Jews—A New Life in the Far West," Harriet and Fred Rochlin tell the story of Morris Shloss, who docked in San Francisco on September 25, 1849, amid the first High Holy Day services.

Shloss, a 20-year-old Polish merchant, made his first sale right on the dock. In New

York, he had paid \$3 for a large wooden box to carry his wagon with him to San Francisco. Keeping the wagon, he sold the box for \$100 to a cobbler who wanted to use it as a workshop and bedroom.

The enterprising Shloss used that money to buy stationery, reselling it at a makeshift stand for a handsome profit. He worked at night as a fiddler at the El Dorado, a gambling hall at Washington and Kearny, getting an ounce of gold, worth \$16, for each three-hour gig. He soon managed to rent a tiny store next to the El Dorado for \$400, where he bought trunks from miners eager to lighten their loads before heading up the gold fields.

In just two months, he had earned between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Then, on Christmas Eve, he lost it all when a fire in an adjacent hotel leveled his store.

Destitute, he sailed off to follow another purported Gold Rush outside Eureka, which turned out to be a hoax. He survived for four months on clams and crackers until a schooner brought him back to San Francisco. He started two more businesses in 1852 and 1853, both of which were destroyed by fire. His brother was killed in a shipwreck after coming out to help him. Nevertheless, Shloss started another business and soon made enough money to bring his fiancée to San Francisco.

Most of the city's pioneer Jews, the Rochlins wrote, "bore the imprint of centuries of European oppression: pogroms, expulsions, segregations, exploitative taxes and barred occupations."

But in the wide-open West, they "Americanized and regionalized with speed, energy and élan."

"Most Jews who responded to the glittering promises of the far western frontier and rose to its awesome obstacles were intrepid, resourceful and individualistic," the Rochlins write. "For the most part, they were also literate, sober and drive to prove themselves."

HONORING TOMAS REYES FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the New Haven Hispanic community to thank my dear friend, Tomas Reyes, for his commitment and dedication to our community. I regret that I am unable to join the friends, family, and community members who will gather this evening at Casa Otonal's annual celebration to pay tribute to Tomas for his many years of service to the City of New Haven.

An icon in the city for nearly two decades, Tomas Reyes recently announced his retirement as President of New Haven's Board of Aldermen. As Alderman of the 4th Ward, Tomas spent his 18 year tenure making sure the City of New Haven was able to meet the many challenges that have faced our city. Under his membership and direction of the Board, programs such as Headstart, Latino Youth Development, Inc., New Haven Family Alliance, Youth Fair Chance, and the Hill Development Corporation were implemented to meet the changing needs of our residents. Tomas was an avid and vocal supporter of city funding for these programs because they pro-

vide much needed services to our city's neediest families.

Tomas once said that he wanted to be actively involved in politics in order to change his neighborhood. He challenged himself to meet a variety of needs, and he succeeded. Tomas has served the City of New Haven with integrity and has improved the quality of life for many.

As the only Latino elected to the Board of Aldermen in 1981, his initial efforts were focused on strengthening representation of the Hispanic community and encouraging the Latino community to become involved in city politics. His strong character and enthusiasm have motivated New Haven's Hispanic community to be both active and vocal. Tomas has long been involved with young people in our community and continues to support many programs and projects designed to assist the children of less fortunate families. As co-founder of Latino Youth Development, Inc., he created a venue for inner-city kids to develop the skills necessary to be successful in today's technological society.

I am fortunate enough to call Tomas a close friend not only in the political arena but personally as well. He has been a long-time colleague of my mother, Louisa, on the Board of Aldermen, and a dear friend to us both. His energy and conviction have been a source of inspiration—not only to myself but to the entire community.

It is with great pleasure that I rise today and join the New Haven Hispanic community to honor my very good friend, Tomas Reyes for his many years of dedicated service and his continued commitment to the improvement of our community. I know that Tomas and his wife Norma will continue to make great contributions to our community. I would like to express my sincerest congratulations and heartfelt thanks for all that he has given to the residents of New Haven.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE BOB McMENEMY

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Robert J. McMenemy, who passed away last week at the age of 59 in Plantation, FL. I am saddened by this tragic loss: South Florida has lost a truly great community leader.

For the past 35 years, Bob McMenemy was a strong presence at labor meetings, political club events, and civic activities throughout Broward County, FL. He was a fixture at Democratic campaign rallies, candidate fundraisers, and political dinners, known among politicians and elected officials as someone who could quickly motivate others to participate in the political process. Demonstrating his large influence on South Florida politics, Bob was the labor committee chairman and a vice chairman of the county Democratic Party, as well as former vice president and president of the Plantation Democratic Club.

Though very active in politics, Bob was perhaps best known for his leadership in South Florida's union. He was a passionate advocate for better pay for workers on public projects,

and significantly strengthened the labor movement in Broward County. He was a leader of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 675, representing the workers who drove construction cranes and other heavy equipment. Bob also served as the political action chairman and legislative director before becoming the union's president. In honor of his extraordinary dedication and work, the Broward AFL-CIO presented Bob with the "Labor Leader of the Year" award. This award was truly deserved, representing all that Bob stood for.

It is important to note that Bob McMenemy did not simply focus all of his attention on political and labor issues. Throughout the course of his life, Bob was especially devoted to social issues as well. He was specifically known for his involvement in assisting people who suffered from drug and alcohol addictions. Bob served as the director of the Broward AFL-CIO's member assistance program, chairman of the Broward Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Board, and a board member of the House of Hope and Stepping Stones treatment programs. He strongly believed that people with drug and alcohol problems deserved a chance to recover, and he worked tirelessly to assist them in this important fight.

On a more personal level, Bob McMenemy, with his deep Irish roots, invested his time in the Emerald Society, a group that promotes Irish heritage. He was, in fact, honored by the society at one of the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfasts in Fort Lauderdale. Most importantly, however, Bob McMenemy was a devoted husband, father, and son, who is survived by his wife, his two daughters, and his mother. No matter what calling one obeys in life, I can think of nothing more important than one's relationship with their family.

Mr. Speaker, while Bob McMenemy's passing is a tremendous loss for the South Florida community, I can say without hesitation that his memory lives on through the work of the many organizations to which he dedicated his life. We will dearly miss Bob, but for the thousands of lives he touched, we thank and praise him for his hard work, his leadership, and his compassion for others.

IN HONOR OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH IN CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SERVICE AND WORSHIP IN CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shiloh Baptist Church in celebration of 150 years of service and worship in Cleveland.

Shiloh Baptist Church is the first African American Baptist Church in the city of Cleveland. Since its founding in 1849 Shiloh Baptist Church has developed and maintained a unique link to the city of Cleveland. During the time when Cleveland was a small rural community, a merchant by the name of Michael Gregory owned a dwelling storefront that became a meeting place for the settlers. It was there that seeds for the need of a church were planted and soon after Shiloh Baptist Church was the magnificent blossom. Through the

years, Shiloh's development was insured by the dedication and care of several ministers, deacons, and members. Today, under the pastorate of Rev. Alfred M. Walker, more than 1,300 new members have joined Shiloh Baptist Church. Leading under the theme "Exalting Jesus, the Christ", Rev. Walker has adopted the main task of: "Recognizing Evil and doing something about it; and seeking to know the Truth and be willing to speak and act in its defense".

Considered to be the Mother Church in Cleveland, Shiloh Baptist Church has been responsible for the organization of many other churches in the surrounding area. Through Shiloh's maternal link with the Cleveland community the congregation has continued to grow. Shiloh Baptist Church has managed to nourish and nurture the community for 150 years through its various organizations and activities. This great church offers the people of the community a chance to work together with the church in grand synopsis form which has produced men and women who have made many significant contributions to the economic and social development of the city and the state.

I am pleased to congratulate Shiloh Baptist Church on the 150th anniversary in addition to its being designated a historical landmark by the Heritage Society of Cleveland and the Cleveland Restoration Society. It is an honour to recognize the Shiloh Baptist Church on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF FRANK GARRISON

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a good friend of mine, Michigan State AFL-CIO President Frank Garrison upon his retirement. Frank Garrison has been standing up for working men and women for over 40 years—beginning with his membership in Saginaw Steering Gear Plant UAW Local 699, and ending as the Michigan State AFL-CIO's second longest serving president. Every day during that forty years, the working families in Michigan have had a champion in Frank Garrison. The legislative and political battles Frank has fought in Lansing have had a direct impact on the standard of living for the working people in our state.

Upon returning from two years in the U.S. Army in 1955, he immediately became active in his local. He held posts ranging from alternate committeeman to financial secretary before being appointed in 1972 as the UAW international representative assigned to the Education Department and the Michigan CAP program. In January 1976, he joined the UAW-CAP legislative office as a lobbyist. Less than a year later, he became the Legislative Director for the UAW in Lansing.

In 1982, Frank was appointed Executive Director of the Michigan UAW-CAP for four years, until being elected president of the AFL-CIO on December 12, 1986. Since his election Frank has been active in the Democratic Party as a member of the Democratic National Committee Executive Board, and President Clinton's National Commission for

Employment Policy. He has served on several Governor's Councils and, in 1993, received an honorary Doctorate of Law degree from Michigan State University. Frank sits on more boards and councils than the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD has room to list.

Frank Garrison has dedicated his life to the betterment of the working men and women of the state of Michigan. I don't know anyone who has earned the right to a little time off and a few more Michigan State University football games as much as Frank Garrison. We all know, however, that Frank's passion for politics and his dedication to working families will not let retirement take him from the causes he believes in and has fought for all his life.

Please join me in honoring the career of one of Michigan's working heroes as Frank Garrison completes his final term as Michigan State AFL-CIO President. Frank, we wish you all the best.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1999 RETIREES OF THE STERLING HEIGHTS FIRE FIGHTERS UNION

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Battalion Chief Dennis Foster and Battalion Chief Dale Monnier who will be honored on their retirement from the Sterling Heights Fire Fighters Union at their Annual Dinner/Dance on September 24, 1999.

It is my privilege to recognize these two firefighters for their outstanding contributions to public service. Beginning their service in 1974, Battalion Chiefs Foster and Monnier continually sought to further their knowledge and experience in the field of public safety, always committed to providing their community with the best service.

Their participation in community events have made these gentlemen an integral part of their city, and their acts of heroism have made Sterling Heights a safer and better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me, the citizens of Sterling Heights and the Fire Department in recognizing these outstanding firefighters for the dedication and accomplishments they have provided to the people's welfare in Sterling Heights. I wish them good health and happiness in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BENJAMIN BARNES GRAVES OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an intellectual treasure of my district, Dr. Benjamin Graves of Huntsville, AL. Dr. Graves has excelled in all facets of academia. As a student, he cultivated a love of learning through his time at the University of Mississippi, Harvard University, University of

Chicago and Louisiana State University. His 50-year career in industry and education includes professorships at Louisiana State University, University of Virginia, University of Mississippi, Pennsylvania State University, University of Alabama at Huntsville and University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He served as president of Millsaps College from 1964–1969 and the University of Alabama at Huntsville from 1969–1978. His distinguished reputation as an academian is supported by the presentation of approximately 300 of Dr. Graves' papers to various audiences over 15 states in the course of the last 20 years.

In honor of Dr. Graves' extraordinary service to the Huntsville community, he will be awarded the 1999 James Record Humanitarian Award by the Arthritis Foundation on September 21st. The description of the award "given to a citizen devoted to promotion of human welfare as well as the advancement of social and cultural reform" illustrates the essence of this man.

Dr. Graves served his country in the U.S. Navy first on active duty from 1942–46 and then in the reserve from 1946–1955. On active duty during World War II, he served as a supply officer aboard three naval ships in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. I believe this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD tribute is fitting for one who has given so much for both the defense of his nation and for the betterment of countless students across the Southeast.

His love of learning is infectious. Dr. Graves carried his intimate and unparalleled knowledge of higher education to other countries when he was selected by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to be a part of a study team to China and Taiwan. In addition to his exceptional professional contributions to our area, Dr. Graves has given of himself, establishing scholarships at both Millsaps and UAH and serving in his church, First United Methodist of Huntsville as a lecturer and administrative board member.

Throughout his life, Dr. Graves has set a great example of how one person can make a huge difference in his community. I want to congratulate him on his well-deserved honor as the 1999 James Record Humanitarian Award and I want to commend him for his tireless efforts for the students of North Alabama.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FINDS PATTERN OF RACKETEERING BY PALESTINIANS AGAINST U.S. FIRM IN GAZA

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in 1995 the United States and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) signed the Gaza-Jericho Agreement to encourage American investment in Gaza and the West Bank, as a follow-on to the Oslo Peace Accord between Israel and the PLO. Bucheit International Limited, a 90-year-old, family-owned business based in Youngstown, OH, agreed to be the model company for U.S. investment in Gaza under the Builders for Peace program.

After investing \$4.4 million in the area, however, Bucheit has experienced a myriad of problems, including: transportation and standards barriers, a mismanaged regulatory system, and unethical, if not illegal, activity, which

have resulted in Bucheit's default on a \$1.1 million loan from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) loan. Furthermore, Bucheit International has experienced numerous unethical and questionable activities in its dealings with Cairo Amman Bank of Gaza. For example, Bucheit has discovered that corporate accounts were opened without proper corporate documentation; corporate checks denominated in dollars were endorsed and cashed by individuals, without first being deposited into the corporate account; canceled checks were not returned; corporate funds in excess of \$100,000 were used to guarantee an overdraft facility of a private individual, without knowledge or approval by the corporation; and a letter of guarantee was written by a bank without notifying Bucheit, in violation of Bucheit management's strict instructions. In addition, Bucheit's plant and equipment were stolen and continue to be operated illegally. Moreover, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has pocketed Bucheit's value-added-tax (VAT) reimbursement from Israel as well as kept the income tax deducted from Bucheit's payments. Without access to its funds or equipment, Bucheit is currently in default of the \$1.1 million OPIC loan.

Recently, Bucheit filed a civil RICO (Racketeering, Influence and Corrupt Organizations) complaint against the Cairo Amman Bank in Gaza for misappropriating loan proceeds advanced to Bucheit from OPIC. On August 17, 1999, U.S. District Judge Kathleen McDonald O'Malley found that the Cairo Amman Bank engaged in a pattern of racketeering activity that caused the failure of Bucheit's precast concrete plant in Gaza. Specifically, the court ruled that there existed an "enterprise" made up of the Bank, Bank employees, an influential Bank customer and other persons, and the Bank knowingly participated, directly and indirectly, in the conduct of the affairs of the "enterprise" through a pattern of wire fraud. Judge O'Malley awarded Bucheit roughly \$15 million in damages. Included in that amount is the \$1.4 million due OPIC.

I find it troubling that the House-Senate conferees on the Foreign Operations Appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 are considering the addition of \$400 million for the Palestinian Authority, while an American investor and the United States government have been blatantly ripped off. To date, the Palestinian Authority has neither authorized an official, internal investigation into the existing "enterprise," nor has it meted out proper punishment to the individuals involved.

As a result, I have requested that the House-Senate Conferees on the Foreign Operations Appropriations for FY 2000 withhold the \$15,206,403 owed Bucheit International, which includes a \$1,436,837 loan repayment for OPIC, from the \$400 million appropriation for the Palestinian Authority.

Unpunished, the guilty parties will continue with their illegal and unethical behavior to the injury of future American investors, the U.S. government and the Palestinian people. To create jobs, growth and higher income, a nation must convince its own citizens as well as foreigners that they can safely invest: fair tax laws and fair enforcement, independent courts enforcing the law consistently and upholding contract rights, strong banks that safeguard savings, and vigilance against hidden ties between government and business interests that are inappropriate.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1059, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I want to elaborate on the remarks I made on September 15, 1999, regarding certain provisions of S. 1059, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000.

As I noted during floor debate, I strongly support the vast majority of this bill, particularly the pay and retirement provisions. But this good bill is marred by some of the text that sets up a National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) as a semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy (DOE). I have reservations about the way these provisions were inserted in the bill—with little discussion among the Members of the Conference Committee—and I have reservations about the substance of some of these provisions.

I will not speak on the conference process at length, but I cannot dismiss it because I cannot remember the Congress acting on such an important matter with so little information and so little discussion among the Members of the conference committee. Neither the House nor the Senate Defense Authorization bill contained language requiring a comprehensive restructuring of the Department of Energy, yet we ended up with about 50 pages worth of text. We did have former Senator Warren Rudman testify before the committee prior to conference, but we did not take testimony from the Energy Department itself, or from the senior statesmen of the labs and nuclear weapons complex, men like Johnny Foster or Harold Agnew. The legislation that the conference committee ultimately produced was not vetted in any meaningful manner among the Members, the Administration, or outside experts. This is not a good process for an important piece of national security legislation.

My first and foremost concern on the substance of the legislation is that we have blurred the lines of accountability when it comes to preventing and ferreting out future espionage at our nuclear labs and weapons complex. I think one thing we can all agree on is that counter-intelligence requires a clear line of command and accountability. A clear chain of command was at the heart of Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) 61, which the Cox Committee unanimously recommended be implemented. This legislation contradicts PDD 61 by setting up two different counterintelligence offices with overlapping responsibilities, and no clear direction on how the offices are supposed to interface with each other. As a member of the Cox Committee, I find it disturbing and ironic that the restructuring provisions fail in what should have been its top priority: setting up clear lines of command and accountability on counterintelligence.

My second and more general concern is that the Secretary's ability to conduct oversight of the complex could be seriously hampered by this legislation. We already know that the price of no oversight is a legacy of contaminated sites that will cost hundreds of billions to clean up. Revelations about contamination of

workers at Paducah show that we cannot disregard the health and safety concerns for workers in the nuclear weapons complex and the communities that surround these sites. The history of the last few decades tells us that the nuclear weapon sites and activities of the Department of Energy require more sunshine, more scrutiny, and more oversight, not less. Any Secretary of Energy must have strong oversight authority, and I fear that this legislation detracts from rather than adding to the Secretary's oversight powers.

Having criticized these provisions, let me say that I do not think they were drafted with bad intent. But they were drafted hastily, without adequate hearings, with no vetting among outside authorities, without the benefit of constructive criticism that comes in the mark-up process, and without any discussion among members of the conference committee.

A good example of the type of confusion that arises from these hastily-drafted provisions is the work of the Energy Department's non-weapons facilities—the science labs. The science labs perform a great deal of work for almost every element designated as part of the new National Nuclear Security Administration. This is especially true for the current Offices of Non-Proliferation and National Security (NN), Fissile Materials Disposition, Naval Reactors, and the Office of Intelligence. The language of the conference report, though, raises the question of whether the current cooperation between the science labs and weapons facilities will be allowed to continue, or be prohibited by the language separating the weapons labs from the rest of the DOE complex.

For the Office of Non-Proliferation and National Security for example, the science labs provide a significant portion of the technologies and expertise for such programs as Materials, Protection, Control and Accountability (MPC&A), a program I helped establish. This is also true for the Nuclear Cities Initiative, in which a science lab (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, or PNNL) co-chairs the U.S. effort in one of the first three Russian nuclear cities selected. That arrangement is especially fruitful because PNNL is the only U.S. lab with real-life experience making the transition from a closed U.S. "nuclear city," Hanford, which produced key nuclear materials for the WWII-era nuclear weapons, to a non-weapons community in which such scientific expertise is put to more peaceful use.

The science labs play a major role in providing technical expertise and collaboration for the Initiatives to Prevent Proliferation (IPP) program, attempting to develop self-sustaining, U.S. and Russian scientific collaborations that are mutually beneficial. The science labs provide valuable technologies and expertise of the NN efforts in Safeguards and Transparency regarding Russian nuclear warheads. Science lab personnel, in fact, chair important working groups in that effort, and have developed technologies that will be used in identifying and securing Russian warhead materials.

The science labs are vital parts of all of DOE's efforts to build lab-to-lab relationships and programs that enhance U.S. national security by applying American eyes and know-how to the potentially dangerous situations in the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) complex of the former Soviet Union. The science labs also play a critical role in the NM arms control programs, providing vital technologies

for verifying compliance with arms control agreements (reductions, dismantlement, production, testing, safeguard and storage, etc.) and detecting the attempted proliferation of WMD materials. Such technologies are proving useful in terms of all WMD materials—chemical, biological and radiological.

Science labs also make major contributions to the efforts of the Office of Fissile Materials Disposition (MD). A science lab leads the U.S. effort in the International Nuclear Safety Program. Of course, the science labs will continue to contribute a great deal to the DOE offices outside the NNSA, on matters, for example, of energy, the environment and nuclear cleanup. Also, like the weapons labs, have the authority and expertise to “work for others,” and often perform important work for other agencies such as the Department of Defense, Justice, State, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The science labs’ contribution to the offices that are scheduled to be in the NNSA is clear, and I do not believe the conferees had any intention of scuttling these contributions by implying that the science labs could not work for NNSA offices. However, the language contained in the conference report is not clear on this question. Title XXXII concentrates solely on the three nuclear weapons laboratories and production facilities, and while it makes specific provision for those weapons labs to perform work for other agencies and for DOE offices outside the new, semi-autonomous administration, it is silent on the role of the non-weapons labs. Such ambiguity breeds confusion and illustrates the flaws in the process of drafting the DOE reorganization title and inserting it into the conference agreement. I served on the conference committee and I was involved in negotiating some of the conference report. I do not think that it was the intention of the conferees for this legislation to impede the continuation of these services in any way.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY ON ITS FIRST 75 YEARS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, among the greatest advances of medicine in this century has been the development and professionalization of radiology. Therefore, I rise today to congratulate the American College of Radiology and its 31,000 members on its 75th anniversary.

While the numbers of diagnostic radiologists, radiation oncologists and medical physicists comprising the college have changed dramatically, the ACR’s main objective has not. Through the years, working with Members of Congress, key Federal, State, and local agencies and a wide variety of health care and consumer organizations, the college has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of patient care.

The American College of Radiology has met this objective through numerous programs. Beginning with mammography, ACR has initiated several national accreditation programs designed to assure high quality performance from both health care professionals and imag-

ing equipment. In addition to mammography, accreditation programs are in place for ultrasound, radiation oncology, stereotactic needle breast biopsy, magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound-guided breast biopsy.

ACR’s groundbreaking mammography accreditation program, which began as a voluntary effort in 1987, now has become a nationally mandated program. In part, as a result of this program and other breast cancer early detection promotion efforts, the National Cancer Institute has recorded, for the past few years, the first declines in mortality from breast cancer.

In addition to accreditation, the ACR has improved the quality of care through its Performance Standards™, Appropriateness Criteria™, life-saving research through clinical trials and medical continuing education programs for members.

The performance standards are principles for delivering high quality radiological care. They are revised and expanded every year. The standards cover a wide variety of procedures. The Appropriateness Criteria™ ensure that the most appropriate examination is done in the most appropriate setting at the most appropriate time. More than 500 medical experts have assisted in developing these criteria.

The college also offers numerous continuing education seminars each year.

ACR manages the federally funded Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG). This organization carries out multidisciplinary cancer trials nationwide. RTOG has gathered numerous medical facilities in providing state-of-the-art treatment for a wide variety of cancers.

As a complement to RTOG, the college also operates the Radiological Diagnostic Oncology Group (RDOG). This program evaluates current and emerging imaging technologies used in the management of patients with malignant disease. NCI funds RDOG so that the group may provide a timely approach for the cost-effective use of new technologies.

Even before the ACR initiated its quality improvement and research programs, radiologists were deeply involved in working to improve patient care. World War I, for example, presented a great need and a great opportunity for radiology. One of the founders of the college, Dr. Edwin Ernst, recalls how using a table built by German prisoners, and a rolling floor fluoroscopic gas tube, he pinpointed the location of bullet fragments. And radiologists in general played a major role in treating and diagnosing patients in those rugged field hospitals.

Later, in the 1920’s the International Radiological Congress helped to standardize measurement. The ACR also worked to secure financing of the x-ray equipment at the Bureau of Standards.

It was also in the 1920’s that the American College of Radiology was born as two dozen radiologists gathered for the first time officially to transact the business of the college: to plan ways to improve their profession’s expertise.

When the United States entered World War II, radiologists mobilized to serve their country. The college volunteered to handle radiology manpower issues for the Army. The growth and development of radiology after World War II paralleled post-war growth of the Nation.

In the early 1950’s, three dedicated members of the college—Drs. Eddie Ernst, Wally Wasson and Ben Orndoff—began to cajole, badger and convince their fellow radiologists

into preserving the history of their profession. In 1955 they gathered for the first time as the Gas Tube Gang. The gas tube was the symbol of the early imaging technology.

Through their efforts the college’s archive’s was created and today it is filled with gas tubes, other early radiological devices, mementos from Dr. Roentgen, Madame Curie and other pioneers, and pages and pages of rich history of the ACR and the field of radiology.

So it is with all of this history in mind and the great contributions the ACR has made to the practice of medicine that I wish the American College of Radiology well on its 75th and continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 16, Hurricane Floyd slammed into North Carolina, bringing heavy winds and torrential rains to my state, including my Second Congressional District. I have been helping my constituents who are struggling to overcome this devastating disaster, and as a result, I was absent from the Chamber for roll-call vote No. 425 and rollcall vote No. 426. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on No. 425 and “no” on No. 426.

IN RECOGNITION OF AGUSTÍN RIVERA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of an extraordinary member of my community. For the past decade, Agustín Rivera has demonstrated time and again his commitment and his vision for his community.

Mr. Rivera was a founding member of Música Against Drugs, a Puerto Rican and Latino, client-driven, community-based agency created to serve the needs of individual and families affected by the HIV/AIDS and drug addition epidemics in the Brooklyn, New York communities of Williamsburg, Greenpoint and Bushwick. Mr. Rivera’s skills, talent, and energy helped the late Manny Maldonado, the founder of Música, establish a program to fulfill a desperately acute need. For several years they, like too many who were on the vanguard battling the pandemic of AIDS, worked very hard with very little money.

After three years of volunteer organizing, Música received its first public grant. This gave Mr. Rivera the opportunity to become stipend/outreach worker and, later, Outreach Coordinator. He then became the first program director of an innovative nutritional program, La Cocina del Pueblo, which provides nutritional services to people with HIV/AIDS. Subsequently, he became the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator and, most recently, the Director of the Community Prevention Project.

Even while giving his all—and then some—to Música, Mr. Rivera found the time for some

other impressive accomplishments as well. He was a founding member of the Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bushwick HIV CARE Network. Last and hardly least, he is married to Marilyn Echevarría, and has an 11-year-old son, Austin.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, "It is from the numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rivera has gained the respect of all who have had the privilege of knowing him, and all who have been blessed by experiencing his dedication and compassion. He has saved lives, and he has made lives better, all by his example that life is to be lived. He is a ripple of hope, and this world is a better place for his being in it.

NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, President Clinton announced his decision to lift some sanctions against North Korea. This is an historic move that comes at a time of real opportunity in United States-North Korea relations, one that does as much to ensure a lasting peace in Korea as any diplomatic initiative taken in the past 50 years.

In the past 3 years, I have spent considerable time on the challenges that North Korea represents. I have made five visits there to see first-hand the famine that has claimed 2 million lives, according to most experts. I have met countless times with aid workers, with Korea-Americans, with experts on North Korea, and with officials from U.N. organizations and other nations. I have struggled to understand why North Korea acts as it does, and, like many of our colleagues, I have worried about the threat North Korea's military poses to the 37,000 American service men and women stationed in South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, my experiences convince me that President Clinton's action stands a better chance than any other alternative in helping the people of North Korea, and in safeguarding peace on the Korean Peninsula.

In the long run, I expect it will bring more freedom and less poverty—as we have seen happen in other communist states that open up to market forces. In the short term, this initiative will help maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula—a peace that South Korea's people and our troops depend upon. And, by removing an obstacle to President Kim Dae Jung's bold and innovative initiative to improve relations with North Korea, it lends support to efforts to encourage "the Hermit Kingdom" to become a responsible member of the international community.

Since I first began visiting North Korea in 1996, its leaders have said they want trade—not aid. I have rarely seen any people who work as hard as Koreans, and I am confident that North Korea's people can work their way

out of the terrible difficulties of recent years and end their reliance on international aid.

Friday's action was a bold step by President Clinton, but it was not the first in U.S. DPRK relations:

Under President Reagan that we first began serious efforts to improve relations with North Korea. His administration's "Modest Initiative" envisioned a gradual increase in contacts; unfortunately, that did not succeed.

A similar effort during President Bush's tenure also failed.

In 1994, the Agreed Framework again attempted to pave the way for better relations, while freezing nuclear production. Without that agreement, which has come under considerable criticism by Congress, North Korea probably would have dozens of nuclear weapons today. But while it succeeded in freezing nuclear production, the 1994 deal also foundered without achieving its other diplomatic goals.

This latest action is the culmination of countless hours of work by a talented group of diplomats headed by Ambassador Charles Kartman. It won needed attention with the assistance of Dr. William Perry and his insightful team. But what may make the outcome of this initiative different from its predecessors' is the dramatic change in North Korea's circumstances, and the actions of the unsung Americans who responded to the humanitarian crisis that resulted.

Mr. Speaker, I have visited many famine-stricken countries. When their crisis ends, some of them throw out the leaders who presided over the famine; some of them don't. But one thing that witnesses to a famine have in common is this: they remember. They remember who helped them in their time of need; they remember who found excuses to do too little as their loved ones suffered and died.

Sadly, North Koreans now know first-hand the sorrows of famine. But they also know that America was there with our food and our aid workers, doing what we could to help ease the suffering of those most vulnerable in any famine. No one better exemplifies their dedication and willingness to make extraordinary efforts than Ellis Culver, of Mercy Corps International. Ellis and his colleagues are among the real heroes of efforts to better understand North Korea, and to create a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

With their continued efforts, and the talents of our diplomats, we have an historic opportunity within our grasp. It is essential that this first step not be the last one. It makes sense for the President to maintain some sanctions, and I know our colleagues will need to see results before they can support lifting other sanctions. But 1999 ought to be the last time we allow a situation on the Korean Peninsula to reach a crisis point before we at least try to defuse it.

To secure the promise of this bold move, I hope the President will move quickly on other recommendations made by the Perry report, including the nomination of a senior-level envoy and the normalization of diplomatic relations. An American presence in North Korea will help ensure our policy stops careening from crisis to crisis, and it will provide Americans with consular protection.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Congress will give this initiative a chance. We all heard South Korea's president when he addressed a joint meeting of Congress earlier this year, and

when I met with him a few weeks ago he again urged the United States to do what the President did last week.

Throughout South Korea's history, the U.S. Congress has played an important role in ensuring its national security and assisting it achieve democracy. Now is the time for Washington to again support Seoul as it charts a new course in relations with its neighbor. The President cannot play this supporting role alone, nor can he succeed in improving United States-North Korea relations without congressional support.

I appreciate the concerns that some of our colleagues have expressed about North Korea. I believe that congressional insistence on a review of U.S. policy safeguarded our national security and probably helped to avert a new crisis with North Korea. But I also know that now is the time for Congress to respect the recommendations of former Defense Secretary Bill Perry, and the many requests of our ally in Seoul.

This is an historic opportunity for peace. The cold war that still lingers in this last corner of the world is not yet over, but the end is within our grasp. I urge my colleagues to lend whatever momentum we can to this initiative, and to the efforts of the many good people working to improve the situation for the ordinary people in North Korea. With luck, and the continuing efforts of the many people who share my concerns about their well-being, they will be the biggest beneficiary of this new policy. And they will remember this turning point.

A TRIBUTE TO GRADY OWENS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I inform our colleagues of the passing of one of the most remarkable individuals my 20th Congressional District of New York has ever produced. Grady Owens was one of those quiet individuals who never made headlines nor stirred controversy, and yet made a deep impact on the quality of our lives, most especially on those dear to him.

Grady Owens first came to Orange County, NY, as a young man in 1947. His uncle was the owner of the King's Lodge in Otisville, which was renamed the Betty Shabazz Retreat Center in 1998. King's Lodge was a well respected business which especially catered to people of color. Grady eventually came to be the third generation owner of the Lodge, at which he hosted some of the most famous and respected people of our time, including the beloved husband and wife acting team Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, and the renowned poet, Maya Angelou.

Grady became well known throughout our region as a person who would always go out of his way to say hello, to inquire about the health of the people he encountered, and to render his opinions on the issues of the day. Columnist Barbara Bedell, in reporting on Grady's passing in the Times Herald Record, noted that: "when he'd go to the post office for mail or run an errand around Middletown, you'd think he was running for office. Everyone knew him and he'd spend time conversing with each and every person as though he had all the time in the world."

Grady left Orange County for eight years, from 1961 to 1969, as a U.S. Marine, and was stationed in the deep south. During those years, he was refused a bus ticket because he refused to stand in the line reserved for "colored" people. In another incident, a bottle of ketchup was poured onto his head at a lunch counter which was not yet integrated. Despite these humiliating experiences, Grady refused to bear malice against those who practiced such hate. He heeded Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s advice that the only way to conquer hate is through love, and that in fact hate is more harmful to the hater than the hated.

I had the privilege of membership in the Middletown (NY) Chapter of the NAACP during the years Grady was its president. He often recounted his own sad experiences with racism—always with regret rather than vengeance—and urged us to work to make certain that our children and future generations would not have to ever again bear such indignities.

Grady was married for over 30 years to the former Judy Joyiens of Queens. Judy reminisced that he was the kind of man that, when they were married, his former girl friends attended the ceremony.

Grady, who was only 61 years old when we lost him earlier this week, had lived the last 6 years of his life with a transplanted liver. Regrettably, his long struggle to regain his health did not succeed, but he remained an active and highly visible member of our community right up until the past few weeks.

In addition to his affiliation with our NAACP chapter, Grady was a member of the Lion's Club, the Board of Directors of the Horton Medical Center, and was active on the advisory board of Orange County Community College (of which he was a graduate), and served on the editorial board of the Times Herald Record.

Grady also attended Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY.

In addition to his wife, Judith, Grady is survived by his five children: Diane Fulston of Atlanta, GA; Robin Anderson of Middletown, NY; Keith L. Taylor of the Bronx; Erin Beth Owens, also of the Bronx; and Grady Dennis Owens, Jr., of Monroe, NY.

Grady leaves behind three sisters, one brother, three grand-children, and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. While no words can help ease the grief that his large, loving family is experiencing, hopefully the knowledge that many of us in what Grady considered his "extended family" share their deep sense of loss, and the realization that we have truly lost a remarkable individual will be of some consolation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join in extending our deepest sympathies to all of Grady Owen's many loved ones, with our sincerest regrets that this man who set a fine example for all of us in the 20th century will not be joining with us as we enter the new millennium.

TRIBUTE TO KIYOSHI PATRICK
OKURA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kiyoshi Patrick Okura on the occasion

of his 88th birthday and the 10-year anniversary of the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. It is my great pleasure to count Pat as a personal friend, as well as one of the most esteemed members of the Japanese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Okura is not one to rest on the accolades of his exceptional list of accomplishments and contributions. In fact, even at age 88, he continues to contribute enormously to those around him. But I would like to take time now, in honor of the celebration of himself and his successes, to commend his constant efforts to improve all the communities he has lived in, and his willingness to serve the public.

Pat's leadership in the Asian American community, both local and national, has led to incredible gains in Asian American participation in Government. As the National President of the Japanese American Citizens League, Pat expanded the JACL's tradition of political engagement and brought the organization his message of empowerment. There are very few leaders who impress upon the younger members of a community the importance of engaging the political world as well as Pat. But when he shares his experiences as a Japanese American, his heartfelt encouragement and strength inspires youth with a remarkable motivation.

Pat's dedication to his country and his community shows through in his more than 50 years of work for government and service organizations. Perhaps even more dramatic than his career and volunteer work, however, was Pat's firm commitment to this nation and his personal ideals when he was threatened with slander, racism, and ignorance.

Early in his career, Pat distinguished himself as the first Japanese American to work for the City of Los Angeles' Civil Service Department. The leadership Pat displayed in his job was used against him, however, during the hysteria following the outbreak of the War in the Pacific. Despite his U.S. citizenship and years of working in public service, a writer from the Los Angeles Times falsely accused Pat of plotting espionage against the United States. Eventually Pat, his wife, their families, and thousands of other Japanese Americans, spent 9 months living in horse stables as internees at Santa Anita racetrack before being taken into internment camps.

In spite of the injustices thrust upon he and his family during the War, Pat continued to demonstrate his steadfast desire to help other people, becoming a psychologist at Father Flanagan's Boys Homes in Boys Town, Nebraska—a position he held for seventeen years.

Years later, Pat focused his leadership and compassion on winning reparations for the Japanese Americans arrested during World War II. Pat's efforts combined with other leaders in Asian American community and on all levels of government to win reparations and an apology to more than 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Ten years ago, Pat and his wife Lily founded the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. During the past decade, the Foundation has raised awareness for the very specific mental health issues in the Asian American community. Each year, the Foundation brings Asian Americans to Washington, D.C., to meet

with health professionals and learn how to work with federal and state agencies to improve the health of their patients and community.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday at the Ft. Myer's Army Base Officer's Club in Arlington, Virginia, there will be a very special event in Pat's honor. Pat and Lily will be joined by many of the dozens of young men and women who have benefited from their time as Okura Fellows, as well as many other well-wishers, to celebrate Pat's 88th birthday and commemorate his many accomplishments. As a friend of Pat's it gives me great joy to add to their voices in commending him on his tireless efforts and his well-earned successes. He has been a true leader for so many generations and communities who will always owe their heartfelt gratitude for his life's work.

A TRIBUTE TO MORTON COLLEGE
FOR THEIR SEVENTY-FIFTH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished community college located in my district, Morton College. Morton College, the second oldest community college in Illinois, recently celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary.

Morton College is a pioneer in the community college concept. Morton College serves various communities in my district, including Lyons, Berwyn, Cicero, McCook, and Stickney, Illinois. It was the people of these communities who in 1924 took note of the national movement towards junior colleges and established Morton College. It was originally housed on the third of floor of Morton High School in Cicero and came close to closing on various occasions, but was saved by the community residents. Since its creation, Morton College has grown from its enrollment of 76 students to 5,000 students.

Morton College has shown its gratitude to the community by providing working-class students with an affordable, home-based access to a university degree. The school's nighttime, weekend, and summer courses allow students to have part-time and full-time jobs and is especially convenient for new immigrants, working parents, and those wishing to go "back to school." Morton College's mission statement begins: "As a comprehensive Community College, recognized by the Illinois Community College Board, Morton College has the mission to cultivate a dynamic learning environment for its students and the community * * *" Morton College has continuously met and exceeded this high standard of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Morton College's fine educational achievements and wish them continued success in the future. Please join me in recognizing and congratulating them on their seventy-five years of dedicated service.

CELEBRATING THE APPOINTMENT OF LYNNE UNDERDOWN AS THE NEW CHIEF PATROL AGENT FOR THE MIAMI BORDER PATROL SECTOR OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lynne Underdown on her appointment as the new Chief Patrol Agent for the Miami Border Patrol Sector and also to commend INS Commissioner Doris Meissner on Ms. Underdown's groundbreaking appointment.

Ms. Underdown will serve as one of 23 Chief Patrol Agents nationwide in the U.S. Border Patrol, the largest uniformed federal law enforcement organization. Ms. Underdown will be the first female chief in the 75 year history of the Border Patrol, the uniformed enforcement arm of the Immigration and Naturalization Service with more than 8,000 officers charged with protecting our Nation's borders.

I would like to share with my Colleagues the attached News Release from the Immigration and Naturalization Service announcing Ms. Underdown's appointment and detailing her wide-ranging professional experience.

Mr. Speaker, the Border Patrol performs a critical mission—to facilitate legal immigration and commerce and prevent illegal traffic in people and contraband, while ensuring the safety of those living in border communities. In Miami, our frequent and unhappy experience with immigrant smuggling makes it particularly essential that the Border Patrol and all immigration-related agencies discharge their responsibilities professionally and with sensitivity for the people involved.

I am sure that Ms. Underdown's wide-ranging background and experience with detention

and deportation issues will serve her well in her new position. Hopefully, her appointment also will promote the development of additional professional opportunities for women in all branches of law enforcement.

NEWS RELEASE, SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

INS NAMES NEW CHIEF PATROL AGENT FOR MIAMI SECTOR

WASHINGTON—Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Doris Meissner today named Lynne Underdown, currently the Director of INS in New Orleans, as the new Chief Patrol Agent for the Miami Border Patrol Sector. Underdown will be the first female chief in the 75-year history of the U.S. Border Patrol, the uniformed enforcement arm of INS charged with protecting the nation's borders.

"Lynne Underdown brings 19 years of distinguished service to the job. Her appointment underscores my continuing commitment to appoint the best-qualified applicants to key positions throughout the agency. It is a special pleasure that for Miami the result is our first female chief," said Meissner.

The Miami Sector has 55 Border Patrol Agents and 36 support staff stationed in Florida. In addition, the sector has jurisdiction over North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

"I have great respect for the hard working and dedicated agents for the Miami Sector. They have accomplished a great deal when faced with extraordinary challenges. It will be my privilege to represent them," said Underdown.

Underdown began her career with INS in 1980 as a Border Patrol agent in San Diego. While in San Diego, she served as a field agent and also worked as Field Training Officer, Sector Training Officer and Recruiting Officer.

In 1987, Underdown was promoted to Supervisory Border Patrol Agent in Yuma Sector, where she was supervisor of the Criminal Alien (BORCAP) unit. She also supervised Employer Sanctions, the K-9 Tactical Unit and all Sector recruiting activities.

In 1990, Underdown transferred to the El Paso Sector, where she was stationed in Carlsbad, New Mexico and continued her

work with the Criminal Alien unit and employer sanctions. She also handled outreach activities with the community and local employers.

In 1992, Underdown was promoted to Assistant District Director for Detention and Deportation in the New Orleans District. She was responsible for supervising one of the largest and most complex detention and deportation operations in the country, covering a five-state jurisdiction and the Oakdale Federal Correctional Institution for criminal aliens. She was promoted to District Director in New Orleans in June 1998.

Born and raised in Chicago, Underdown has a brother on the Chicago police force and another brother who works for the Cook County Sheriff's Department. Her father was a 30-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department. "I come from a law enforcement family and I am proud to carry on that tradition," said Underdown. She currently resides in New Orleans with her two children and her husband, who is Chief Patrol Agent of the New Orleans Border Patrol Sector.

Underdown will serve as one of 23 Chief Patrol Agents nationwide in the largest uniformed federal law enforcement organization. The U.S. Border Patrol was officially established on May 28, 1924 by an act of Congress passed in response to increasing illegal immigration. The initial force of 450 officers was given the responsibility of combating illegal entries and the growing business of alien smuggling. The Border Patrol now numbers more than 8,000 well-trained and well-equipped officers.

While the Border Patrol has changed dramatically since its inception 75 years ago, its primary mission remains unchanged—to detect and prevent the unlawful entry of aliens into the United States and to apprehend those persons found in the United States in violation of immigration laws. Together with other INS officers, the Border Patrol helps maintain borders that work—facilitating the flow of legal immigration and goods while preventing the illegal traffic of people and contraband and ensuring the safety of all those living in border communities.